THE SUNDAY TIMES
August 2, 2026

‘You can’t be a bighead’

The star who stole the summer. Samantha Morton on The Odyssey

Culture.

The Art of Hospitality.

EDWARDIAN HOTELS LONDON

THE LONDONER LEICESTER SQ.

THE MAY FAIR HOTEL

THE EDWARDIAN MANCHESTER

My Picks of the Week

Mark Urban

● I'm reading *The Art of Warfare in the Age of Marlborough*, a text written 50 years ago by the great David Chandler, because I felt a pang of ignorance about early-18th-century military history. I will return to the mainstream with *Careless People*, the exposé of Facebook, just as soon as I'm done with the humiliation of Louis XIV by the original resident of Blenheim Palace.

● **Expectation management is always hard with a movie as big as *The Odyssey* – you steer between the Scylla of studio hype and the Charybdis of wiseacres who delight in rubbishing it. I would give it a solid four stars and was pleased to have digested the *Odyssey* episodes of *The Rest Is History* podcast by way of homework. The film was long, and arguably we've reached a moment when a story this complex would have been better told as a ten-part big-budget TV production.**

● I've been a little predictable on that front too, zapping through *The Pitt*, and now greatly enjoying series two of *Your Friends & Neighbors* on Apple TV.

Mark Urban covers foreign affairs for The Sunday Times. His book Tank (Viking £11.99) is out now in paperback

Cover Samantha Morton. Photographed by Jana Scheussler

Making pop video history with David Bowie p6

PETE STILL/REDFERNS

Arts

4 Cover story Samantha Morton on why her part in The Odyssey felt like being picked for the Olympics

8 Television Long journey ahead? You need our guide to the best entertainment to download for the trip

10 Film Didi Conn on how playing Frenchy in Grease changed her life

Critics

14 Film It's a Tom Holland blockbuster summer – but does his Spider-Man stick the landing?

16 Art Lindsey Mendick shatters pottery conventions in a wild exhibition

Books

20 Book of the week A nightmare scenario imagined: what if a deadly toxin escaped from a lab?

22 History The true stories of the victims of the witch-hunting craze of the 1640s

28 Historical fiction Is the detective Sebastian Wolff the new Bernie Gunther?

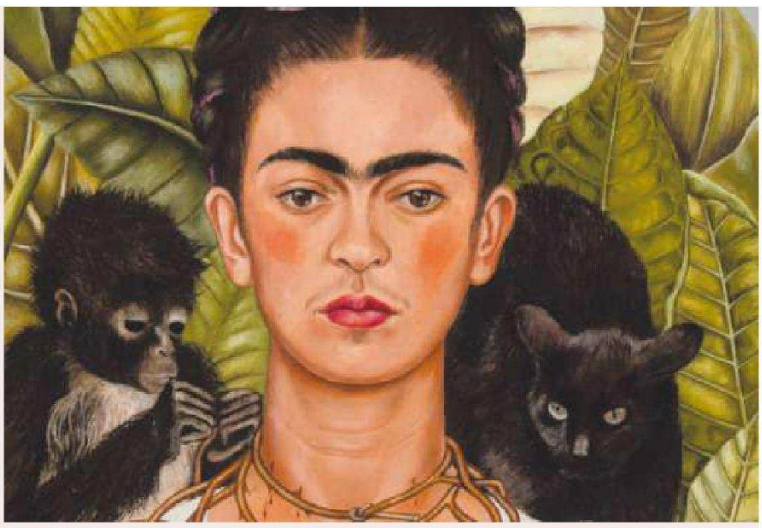
TV & Radio

29 The best guide to the week's programmes

© Times Media Ltd, 2026. Published and licensed by Times Media Ltd, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF (020 7782 5000). Printed at Walstead Bicester Limited, Oxfordshire. Not to be sold separately.

Win a Frida Kahlo-inspired Mexico adventure

To celebrate the new Tate Modern exhibition, one Times+ member can win a six-night trip to Mexico City for two, staying at Mondrian Mexico City Condesa with flights, transfers and private guided visits courtesy of Journey Latin America. The prize also includes exhibition tickets to *Frida: The Making of an Icon* at Tate Modern in London, celebrating the artist's life, work and enduring influence.
Visit thetimes.com/timesplus



TIMES+

T&Cs apply. Frida Kahlo *Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird* (detail) 1940 Harry Ransom Center, Nickolas Muray Collection of Mexican Art, 66.6

Jonathan Dean
Interview

‘If you’re not resilient you’re dead’

Samantha Morton is the unlikely star of The Odyssey. She says her stirring Circe is inspired by her childhood in care and the suffering of women like her mother

So, who is the best character in *The Odyssey*? That is the question as Christopher Nolan’s epic becomes a cultural phenomenon, sailing to box-office glory, making $639.6 million worldwide in its first two weeks.

To capitalise on the conversation, film journalists have ranked its main performances from worst to best. The general consensus is that Odysseus, played by the bona fide movie star Matt Damon, comes in at No 3. No 2? The snivelling suitor Antinous, as portrayed by the millennial hunk Robert Pattinson. But there could only be one champion. And the winner is... Circe, the sorceress played by the one-of-a-kind Nottingham-born mother of three who endured an early life of care homes and homelessness, Samantha Morton.

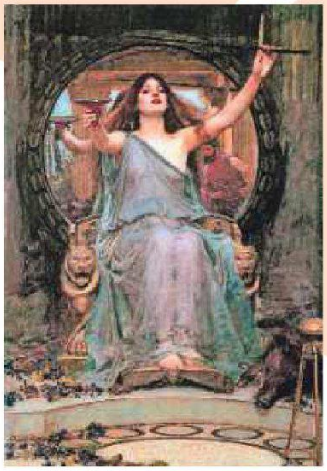
“Oh, I don’t read the press,” Morton says when I ask what she thinks about her latest accolade. “I haven’t since 1997 – I got really stung when my film *Under the Skin* came out. I was so excited to read reviews but there was a really bad one in Time Out. It broke me. It was the cruellest thing.”

Yet being widely considered as the standout in a cast consisting of Damon, Pattinson, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Anne Hathaway and Charlize Theron is... good? “I just think Circe is a gift,” she says. “But competition in art is a strange thing, isn’t it? You can’t be a bighead. I’m only as good as the other good person; we are just equal and maybe that is a Nottingham thing, a working-class thing, me spending time in care.” She smiles. “Art, though, depends on how we connect – I had a message from my foster mother saying, ‘You are good, but Anne Hathaway? She is amazing.’”

Morton is at home in Sussex, relaxing in a white T-shirt, her hair hanging loose to her shoulders, as she sips from a morning mug of tea. Minimalist black-and-white sketches fill the walls and she is finally taking stock after the whirlwind red-carpet press tour for *The Odyssey*, which was of a sort that this 49-year-old is simply not accustomed to. Her career has been one of those exemplary ones lived out of the spotlight, with films ranging from the psychological drama *Morvern Callar* to the punchy immigration drama *In America*, plus parts for Steven Spielberg, David Cronenberg and Charlie Kaufman. Yet now she is the accidental headliner of the most talked-about film in years, a behemoth on a path to break a billion and, next year, storm the Oscars.

“It feels like the Olympics,” Morton says. “Chris is picking his squad and after years of working I’ve finally been picked for a team. You have to be the best of the best to work for him – and you know me, I’ve been cracking on for years, but I wanted to audition for him for ages and it was not happening. Even thinking about meeting him makes me

MATT BARON/BEI/SHUTTERSTOCK



Star turn Above: Morton in The Odyssey. Left: Circe Offering the Cup to Ulysses by JW Waterhouse. Below: Morton aged 13 in Go Wild!

want to cry. It validates that I must be good at what I do."

Yet Nolan is hardly the first big name she has worked for – Morton has been nominated for an Oscar twice and was one of the eerie soothsayers in Spielberg's masterpiece *Minority Report*. How does *The Odyssey* validate her in a way that film did not?

"It was a different time," Morton says of the thriller she made in 2002, when she was 25. "Now my skills and ability have matured and I feel like I am the best I've ever been. I don't perhaps look the best I've ever looked – I'm a 49-year-old woman who has never had facials or anything like that. I try to go to a gym if time permits but I have children, dogs, a mortgage – a real life. I've never entered that Hollywood world. I lived in Derbyshire for years and now live near Hastings." She pauses. "I just hope I get another job."

The story... well, everyone knows the story. It is by Homer, nearly 3,000 years old and tells of Odysseus taking a wooden horse full of, spoiler, soldiers into Troy and sacking the place, leading to a long journey on his way home to his wife, Penelope (played by the favourite of Morton's foster mum, Hathaway). Circe is one of his ordeals. When Odysseus' starving men turn up at her hut on Aeaea, she feeds them slop and morphs them into pigs. It plays out like a horror film and, remarkably, is CGI-free; instead the swine are made of animatronic heads and silicone prosthetics.

To become Circe, Morton thought of when she was a teenager at the Central Junior Television Workshop in Nottingham in the early Nineties and picked with other kids to co-present the ITV conservationist show *Go Wild!* with Chris Packham. The series had a big friendly educational monster called Fungus the Bogeyman, played by a man in a suit with whom Morton acted, an experience that informed her part in a $250 million-budget blockbuster 35 years on.

She also thought of *Fraggle Rock*, dancing, clowning, the avant-garde music video director Chris Cunningham, *Alien* and the pre-Raphaelite painting of Circe with pigs by John William Waterhouse. In the film Morton's Circe hums while casting her spell – an unnerving addition not in the script but one that Nolan went with. The humming was inspired by Kate Bush.

Yet what has really made people talk is not how Morton is playing Circe but what she says to Odysseus in a searing monologue that is essentially a couple of minutes of Morton securing her best supporting actress nomination at the Oscars.

"I didn't turn your men into anything – this is who they are! They have raped and pillaged across the world, you think that's against their nature?"

Nolan has been criticised over his career for underwriting female characters, with only Marion Cotillard in *Inception* and Jessica Chastain in *Interstellar* given the depth to outshine male leads, but Morton here is extraordinary. Born one of many siblings in 1977 to Pamela, a factory worker who struggled with her mental health, and Peter, a coalminer who was an alcoholic, she spent most of her childhood in foster homes or children's homes. Acting gave her a career when a kindly mentor found her extras work to stave off being skint. She has three children of her own – Esmé, 26, with the actor Charlie Creed-Miles, and Edie, 18, and Theodore, 12, with her partner, the film-maker Harry Holm. All of these people, she says, and all of her past have informed how Morton delivers that monologue.

"These weren't just words," she says. "I believe them as Sam, not just Circe. And when I opened my mouth I was every woman. I was speaking for my mother, who suffered all sorts at the hands of men. And my sister, friends, grandmother. It was all the wrongs and ways that women have been depicted or treated for ever – from the Whore of Babylon onwards.

"Yet," she continues about the soldiers in the scene, "I also had unbelievable sympathy, because my stepdad and brother were in the military and therefore have witnessed and probably been party to things we cannot even imagine. So I thought about PTSD, Don McCullin's photo of the shellshocked soldier. Because if Circe is all women, then she is also a mother. So there was anger, but also empathy."

Many years ago Harvey Weinstein tried to destroy Morton's career after she turned down a role in one of his films. In 2022 Morton exorcised some demons by playing the whistleblower Zelda Perkins in the underrated exposé thriller *She Said* – are there similarities between the roles?

"Well, I'm in them both!" she says, laughing. "And the themes are about justice for women, but they could not be more different. I feel Circe is a survivor. I'm not saying Zelda isn't; she witnessed things and said, 'I'm going to f***ing change this.' Her courage is astonishing. But they are different and I think that Circe experienced wrongs on her own physicality."

Mostly, though, Morton is overwhelmingly happy – nay, "buzzing" – to be in a film that people are talking about. At dinner the other night in New York she overheard two different tables talking about the movie, while people are stopping her in the street.

"I'm just really chuffed," she says, but it means more to her than some. As a young actress she loved the cinema so much she did not even bother having a TV set. When she worked on shows in her early career – *Soldier Soldier*, *Band of Gold*, *Cracker* – she found the formulaic multiwriter episodic series format "demoralising". She wanted to be Alec Guinness.

When I ask about next year's inevitable Oscar push, she looks baffled. "That is a really interesting question," she says, somehow unaware of the attention still to come. "I literally haven't got a clue."

I end with maybe the most unintentionally glib-sounding question I have ever asked, one that, of course, this most unique of actors gives far more thought to than it deserved. A few years ago at the Baftas, when she was receiving a lifetime achievement award, I was blown away by her speech about her difficult past. Her life, I say, has been something of an odyssey – when was the closest she came to giving up, before finally realising that she had made it safely home? She smiles. "I have never thought that," she says.

"Because the past never leaves you," she adds, beginning her second great monologue of the summer, one that deserves to be written out in full. "It's in your DNA, and trauma is a constant battle. My relationship with my past changes as I age and my children age, but things keep happening. I sadly lost my sister on April 22 this year. She was 53. And I am still dealing with the coroners. And the trauma. I lost my real father 18 months ago. Trauma. So the past is always with me and I'm not saying I'm not going to be all right next week, but every day I wake, say a prayer and say, 'Please help me.'

"Someone told me I was resilient when I was younger,'" she continues. "But sometimes you've got no choice other than to be resilient because if you are not you're dead. I went pillar to post with foster families, homeless hostels, sleeping by the bins at the back of the Co-op, because it was too dangerous to go back to the children's home because of the abuse. I have made choices that have always been about survival.

"And now I live in a beautiful home – it's stunning. It's beautiful. I've got a massive garden, two bathrooms. But it's constant work, isn't it? Ongoing. And my job is my salvation." She smiles. "Well, salvation is a bit strong, but I hope I'll act until I literally stop living. Because this? It really does feel like a dream."

The Odyssey is in cinemas now

"I'm a 49-year-old with a real life. I just hope I get another job"

"My foster mum said I'm good but Anne Hathaway is amazing"

'DAVID BOWIE, LOU REED

The music video maestro *Tim Pope* on his career highs and lows, from singing Space Oddity with the Starman (in a cupboard) to Neil Young driving him around LA

Marc Almond of Soft Cell calls Tim Pope a man who is "prone to going too far". Robert Smith of the Cure says, perhaps with some irony given their 40-year friendship, "I have enjoyed every moment I have lost in his company," while Iggy Pop affectionately describes him as "a strange person".

Pope, 70, is the visionary director behind some of the most famous music videos, from Soft Cell's *Bedsitter* (1982) to Queen's *It's a Hard Life* (1984), in which he famously dressed Freddie Mercury as a giant prawn, and David Bowie's spectacular 50th birthday concert at Madison Square Garden in 1997. In his new memoir, *I Shoot Rock Stars: The Wild Adventures of a Music Video Director*, he looks back on the triumphs, disasters and extraordinary moments of a gloriously madcap career that helped to define the golden age of the music video.

Lou Reed looked into my eyes

I hooked up again with David Bowie in 1997 at Philip Glass's ninth-floor Looking Glass Studios in New York. By this point, we had been working together for over a decade. He was prepping to record some backing tracks for the 50th birthday Madison Square Garden gig I was set to film when, looking jittery, he suddenly announced: "Lou's coming in today."

I almost quipped, "Lou who?" to cut the tension, but for once I managed to keep my trap shut. He added: "Let's hope he's in a good mood – he can be a right grump otherwise."

Lou Reed had a famously difficult reputation, especially when being interviewed. Journalists feared his acid tongue and disdainful manner. Over the years, he had fought a well-documented battle with drug addiction, alcoholism and mental-health issues, which no doubt added to his forbidding persona. I was intrigued to see what he was going to be like in the flesh.

As we chatted in the hallway, the elevator creaked and through the frosted glass I saw the unmistakable silhouette of Lou Reed. He stepped out wearing mirrored shades, looking smaller than I'd imagined – maybe 5ft 10in. Dressed head to toe in black – jeans, jacket, boots – he was the embodiment of cool. "Hey, David," he said, wrapping his arms around him. That gravelly Long Island drawl was instantly familiar; it had been the soundtrack of my teenage years.

Lou settled in, chatting with David in the kitchen. Surprisingly, Lou seemed upbeat, a far cry from what David had warned. Lou was the first to speak. "Yeah, Laurie [Anderson] and I are off to Mombasa tomorrow. We hope to snag some items from the local street markets for our East Village apartment – you know, fruit bowls and that kind of shit."

David sharply inhaled through his teeth. It was the kind of inward sucking sound builders make when you brief them about the renovations you want, and they want to show it will be more difficult than you think. "Fruit bowls?" he asked, his voice tense.

"Yeah, what's up with that?" Lou replied, noticing the vibe.

"Just the change in atmosphere, you know?" David said mysteriously. "Hot to a more temperate climate, right? They warp, don't they? I once brought some back from a trip, and by morning, they were all cracked and warped from the change." He had concluded his piece and stubbed out his cigarette.

"Hm," Lou said, deep in thought and likely re-evaluating his plans.

Later, they headed into the studio control room, with its heavy sound-insulating door, to lay down some backing tracks. I could hear the faint sounds of the Velvet Underground's *I'm Waiting for the Man* blending into *White Light/White Heat*, along with Lou's new song, *Dirty Blvd*.

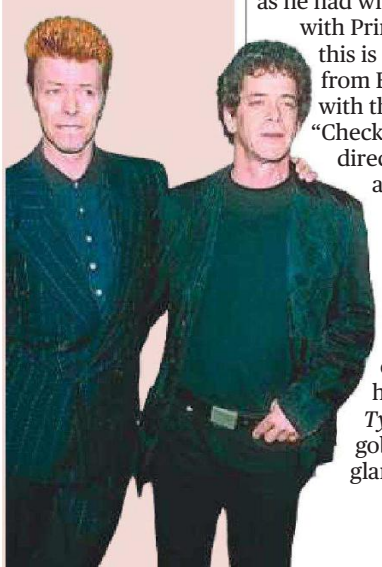
The fanboy in me was fighting to take over. After giving myself a pep talk, I casually slipped in to join them. Through the glass of the vocal booth, I saw David with Lou, who played a low-slung, sleek black guitar. They performed a fiery version of *Queen Bitch* from Bowie's *Hunky Dory*, their heads close together as they shared the mic for a guide vocal.

David noticed me, smiled and waved. He introduced me to Lou, just as he had with Mick Jagger and later with Princess Diana. "Here, Lou, this is Tim Pope, the film director from England. I love his work with the Cure." Bowie chuckled. "Check out his eyes, man. He's directing the concert film at the Garden, but he has a wonky eye, so he can't see anything." Rude, but I let it go.

Lou leant in, sizing me up, his leather jacket creaking as he moved closer. As I looked up at him, he resembled a giant *Tyrannosaurus rex* ready to gobble me up. His assessing glance lasted a tad too long

Pop life Tim Pope before he lost his shirt to Neil Young. Below: David Bowie and Lou Reed

Lou Reed can be a right grump, David Bowie told me



TIM POPE

AND ME'

for my comfort, though in reality it was probably only a couple of seconds. Finally, he acknowledged my wonky eye by saying: "Oh, yeah."

Picture this: Lou f***ing Reed, David f***ing Bowie, and me, just a kid from Enfield, trying to play it cool.

"Not the only one with a weird eye around here, am I?" I heard someone awkwardly respond to Bowie about his famously dilated pupil... Actually, that was me. Oh God.

After saying goodbye to David and mentioning that he would see him at rehearsals, Lou vanished behind the frosted-glass pane of the elevator. I could almost sense the palpable relief wash over David, as if a weight had been lifted. "Well, that went quite well, after all," he said. "I hope I didn't upset him regarding the wooden stuff."

"Nah, I think he was cool with it," I replied.

David brightened, giving me a cheeky grin. "Here's something I want to show you, mate," he said with a wink, pointing towards a door near the elevator. He waved for me to follow him.

Karaoke with David Bowie

The small, windowless space measured about 12ft square and felt tight for both of us. Old master recording tapes in boxes gathered dust on the shelves, and a vacuum cleaner was propped up in the corner, along with other cleaning supplies. In the centre of the room was an old coffee table, on which rested another of his cardboard models, similar to the one he had once shown me of the Glass Spider. This model depicted the Garden stage and was impressively detailed, complete with a light-coloured, translucent material showing the cloth on which the moving images would be projected.

We shuffled around the table and knelt down on either side to take a peek from the wings. From the stage's 1:100 scale, we must have looked like two giants peering in, our faces towering over everything. David picked up a tiny cardboard figure dressed in the Union Jack coat he'd wear for the show.

"This is me, OK?" he said.

"Can you grab that?" he asked, indicating a small projector on a shelf. "I want to go over the last song for the encore."

Following his lead, I held the projector, threw the switch, and aimed it at the model's scrim cloth. Flickering images began to roll. First up was a clip from Mick Rock's music video for *Life on Mars?*, showcasing a younger Bowie in a teal suit with his red-dyed toilet-brush hair. Other clips played as well, including a nostalgic shot from the 1990s of colourful confetti raining down on Bowie's head.

David hit "Play" on a CD, and the unmistakable 12-string guitar intro to *Space Oddity* filled the air. He animatedly moved the tiny figure around the stage, singing along as if he were performing right there in the small room. It was David Bowie doing karaoke to David Bowie, as he handled a miniature cardboard version of himself. As the song progressed, I found myself joining in with the spoken rocket-launch countdown that played behind the main lyrics, without realising what I was doing.

Then it came: the big moment in the song when astronaut Major Tom felt the craft he was in, his tin can, starting to gather momentum, with its giant engines lifting him up, up and away towards the sky. Man, at that moment, I truly felt like I was in that capsule with him.

Cosmic violins sounded – ah, but I knew what came next: the big drum break to signify the actual moment of arrival at the starry firmament. "Budda-bu-da-bup!" I yelled at the top of my lungs to simulate the percussion break. In my enthusiasm, I nearly dropped the projector.

When David crashed back in with his voice, I jumped right into the higher harmony part, singing wildly, letting loose like a maniac. What a moment.

Later that night, back in my hotel room, I buzzed with so much adrenaline that I felt like it would carry me off into space by itself.

Neil Young stole my shirt

In 1983, Neil Young called and invited me to the US. He said he'd love me to make a video for his song *Wonderin'* and I should jump on a plane as soon as possible. I was driven out to meet him at Broken Arrow Ranch in northern California. He joined us outside his redwood mansion, plucking a few blades of grass to chew on.

He wore ragged jeans and a checked shirt. The dirt caked on the soles of his feet made it clear he rarely wore shoes. His dog – a scruffy, feral-looking beast that bore an uncanny resemblance to its master, and whose name I later learnt was Elvis – ambled over, inviting Neil to rub its belly.

He listened to my pitch – casting him as a drifter, wandering through LA, unable to keep up with the world as it rushed by. After I'd finished, he lowered his sunglasses – and I found myself staring into the most deranged, f***-you eyes I'd ever seen. It was like facing the mad monk Rasputin. But he liked my concept. "When are we shooting?" he asked.

Days later he drove himself to LA to make the video in a massive, f***-off white convertible from the 1950s. It probably melted a couple of Greenland's icebergs with its noxious emissions during the single trip. Neil wasn't quite as tuned into environmental issues as he is today.

For the video, we needed to choose locations around the city, and Neil was our chauffeur and guide. With hindsight, I realise this was bonkers; I wonder if Bob Dylan would have been so generous with his time.

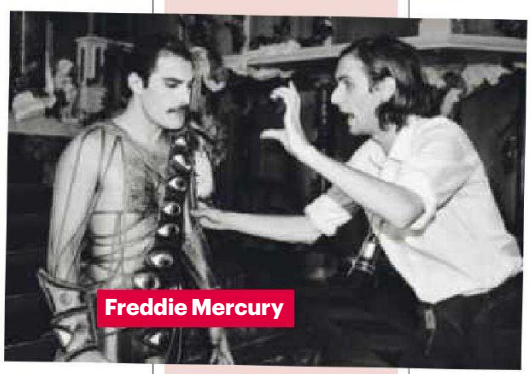
I think Neil got a kick out of watching Brit boys (I was with my art director and co-conspirator, Alex McDowell) gawping at the absurd architecture. Being Canadian he shared our outsider's perspective on American excess and the visual madness of the City of Angels. We cruised along with the top down and truck drivers would shout out: "'Fifty-six, Neil?" "No, man ,'57," he'd reply. Others said: "Is that really Neil Young?" At one point, he took a photo of me in my favourite black and white psychedelic shirt from Carnaby Street, outside the Hard Rock Cafe.

The night before filming we were deciding what he should wear. He pointed out that shirt of mine.

"Hey man – why don't I wear yours?" It was only on the flight home that I realised, too late, that I'd forgotten to take it back.

Extracts from I Shoot Rock Stars: The Wild Adventures of a Music Video Director by Tim Pope (Wildfire £25 pp336). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk

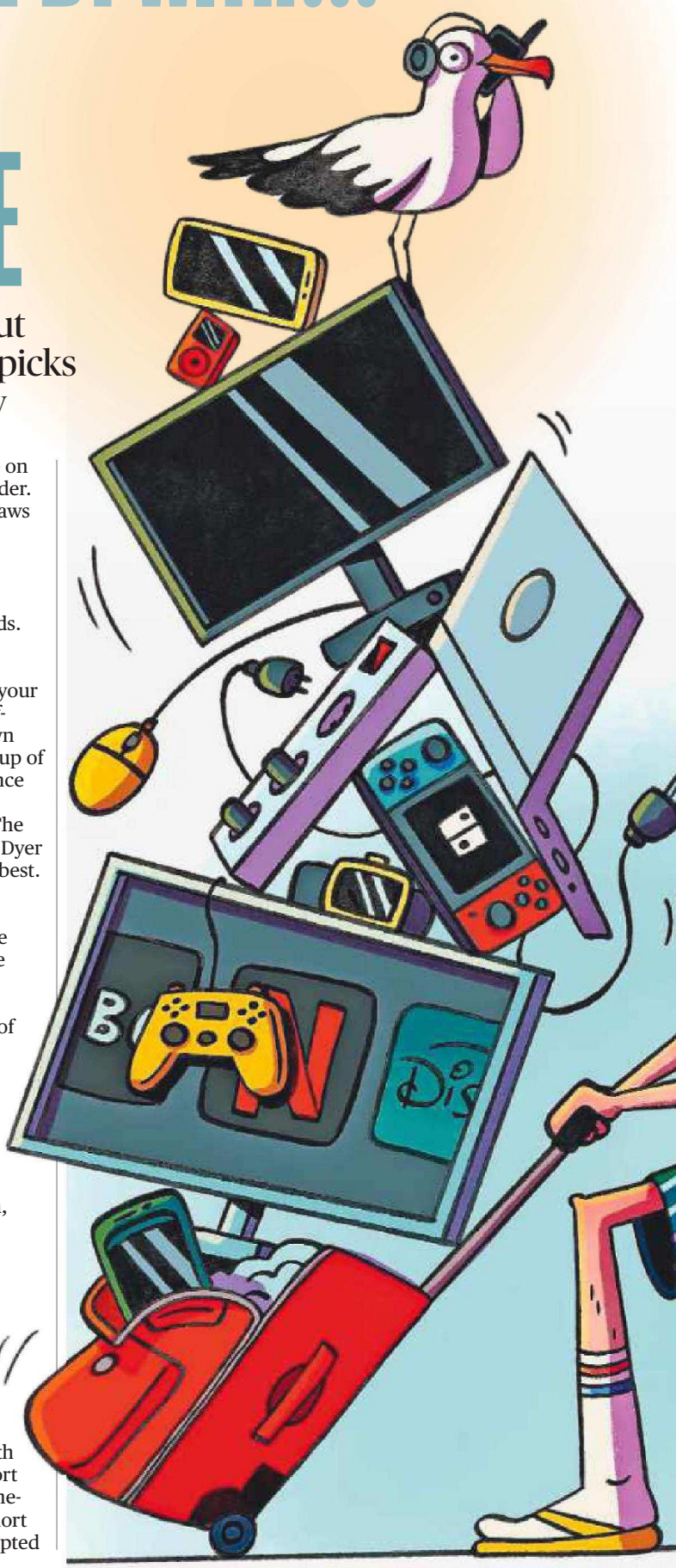
> **Neil Young took off his glasses – he had the most deranged eyes I'd seen**



Going too far
From top: Tim Pope lent his shirt to Neil Young for the 1983 Wonderin' music video; with Soft Cell's Marc Almond; directing Freddie Mercury in the It's a Hard Life video in 1984

MAKE THE JOURNEY FLY BY WITH... OUR BIG SUMMER STREAMING GUIDE

From snappy comedies that take the sting out of traffic jams to screen epics, *Tim Glanfield* picks the best shows to download for your holiday



There was a time when boarding a short-haul flight meant sitting among a sea of paperbacks. These days you're more likely to be surrounded by the glow of blue light – time in the skies is a chance to catch up on TV and films.

Even on long-haul journeys where screen entertainment is laid on, we're no longer at the mercy of what the in-flight system has to offer at 30,000ft. But you need to be prepared as it's often difficult and expensive to stream and download content from British services once you have left the country.

So why not give your summer holiday an upgrade by ensuring it's packed with great entertainment tailored to your trip?

SHORT HAUL

A selection with short episodes (mostly under 30 minutes) that are great to dip in and out of as you make your way to your destination

Veep *HBO Max*
This sharp political satire from Armando Iannucci, starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus as the hapless vice-president Selina Meyer, is served in bitesize 22-minute chunks that are perfect to lift your spirits in a long queue for passport control. Better still, there are seven series – to last all holiday.

The Four Seasons *Netflix*
A show about people going on holiday, to watch on holiday? Starring Tina Fey and Steve Carell, this gentle comedy drama about a group of friends who go away together every three months is a quirky portrait of middle-age eccentricity and relationships. Episodes are short, perfect for a flight.

Mr Inbetween *Disney+*
A hidden gem Australian crime comedy drama that's more easily digestible on shorter trips than a flight down under. Each of the 30-minute episodes draws you into the suburbs of Sydney as Raymond "Ray" Shoesmith (Scott Ryan) attempts to balance life as a criminal with the day-to-day responsibilities of family and friends.

The Assembly *ITVX*
A heartwarming treat that will get your trip off to a great start. In each half-hour episode a different well-known personality is interviewed by a group of people with autism, neurodivergence or learning disabilities, leading to surprising and amusing answers. The episodes with Stephen Fry, Danny Dyer and David Tennant are among the best.

Peep Show *Channel 4 streaming*
Before Jesse Armstrong became the toast of America with *Succession* he co-created one of the best British sitcoms of the 21st century. Across nine series we follow the fortunes of the unlikely friends Mark (David Mitchell) and Jez (Robert Webb). Their very British antics are the perfect show to take on your travels and remind you of home.

Hacks *Sky/Now*
This story of a Las Vegas comedian, Deborah Vance (Jean Smart), who teams up with a young, spiky, out-of-work comedy writer, Ava Daniels (Hannah Einbinder), to reinvent her career has been one of the critics' darlings over the past five years.

Death Valley *iPlayer*
A Welsh-set cosy detective drama starring Timothy Spall and Gwyneth Keyworth, it keeps its episodes short at just 45 minutes, making the crime-of-the-week format just right for short haul. One of the biggest recent scripted

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NINA KRAUSE

hits for the BBC, across two series the show centres on the unlikely crime-fighting pairing of a retired actor who used to play a sleuth and a real, socially inept young detective.

ROAD TRIPS

Fun for all the family and things to occupy the children on long car journeys

Harry Potter *Audible*
While Pottermania never really went away, the forthcoming HBO television series (arriving at Christmas) has added even more magic to the franchise. If you would like something the whole family can enjoy in the car, consider all seven books brought alive in the 2025 full cast audio with actors such as Hugh Laurie and Matthew Macfadyen. Or for a "fireside" experience, try the Stephen Fry-narrated editions.

The Gruffalo collection *iPlayer*
Anyone with children or grandchildren will be familiar with the books of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, the most famous of which remains *The Gruffalo*. In 2009 the BBC commissioned a beautiful animated film based on the book. They have subsequently adapted more than a dozen stories, from *Room on the Broom* to *Zog*, all available on iPlayer and guaranteed to keep youngsters happy in the car.

Beast Games *Prime Video*
You might not know Jimmy Donaldson (aka Mr Beast) but I guarantee any family member under 18 will – he's the biggest YouTuber in the world with more than 500 million subscribers. His challenge games and entertainment formats are some of the most watched videos online. This ambitious game show with a $10 million prize brings his trademark fun and games to television with an Amazon budget.

Yes Day *Netflix*
Jennifer Garner, Édgar Ramírez and Jenna Ortega (Wednesday in the hit Netflix show of the same name) star in this fun family adventure about parents who inadvisably agree to say yes to everything their children ask for in a day. As you can imagine, things get way out of hand, delivering a film filled with chaos, silliness and high jinks that everyone can enjoy.

Hoppers *Disney+*
If you're looking for intergenerational entertainment, you can't go wrong with Pixar. Why not kick off your road trip with the latest adventure fresh from the cinemas about an animal-loving student who transfers her mind into a robotic beaver? If that's got your Pixar juices flowing, they're all downloadable on Disney+, from *Inside Out* to *Ratatouille*.

Last One Laughing UK *Prime Video*
Suitable for families with older children, this gem of a new comedy format will keep spirits up however long the traffic jam, as the best British comedians from Bob Mortimer to Sara Pascoe try to make each other laugh while keeping a straight face.

Nick Cope's Popcast *iPlayer*
In a former life Nick Cope was the frontman of the indie band the Candyskins, who emerged from the same Oxford music scene as Radiohead and Supergrass. More recently, however, he has channelled his songwriting prowess into music aimed at younger children and their families. Across three series you can follow Nick and his trusty whippet on their magical adventures through brilliantly catchy original music.

LONG HAUL

If you've got time on your hands and you want to be engrossed by a truly bingeable series

The Pitt *HBO Max*
This American medical drama set in a Pittsburgh hospital is one of the year's standout series. Starring the *ER* alumnus Noah Wyle as a doctor trying to hold together an overcrowded emergency department, the show unfolds in real time across a single 15-hour shift, creating an intense, breathless viewing experience brought alive by a magnificent ensemble cast.

Pluribus *Apple TV*
Too many people are yet to enjoy this sci-fi masterpiece from Vince Gilligan, the genius creator of *Breaking Bad* and *Better Call Saul*. Starring Rhea Seehorn as the romance author Carol Sturka, the enormously ambitious series explores a world where a mysterious event has joined the consciousness of almost everyone – except Carol. Seehorn delivers a captivating performance at the heart of this wonderful series that will make any journey fly by.

Two Weeks in August *iPlayer*
Sun-drenched and addictive, this eight-part drama set on a Greek island and starring Jessica Raine certainly has a backdrop to get you in the holiday mood, even if the plot is more holiday from hell than *Wish You Were Here*. A bold and unusual commission from the BBC, it follows a group of old friends whose lives begin to unravel.

GBH *Channel 4 streaming*
It might be 35 years since it was first broadcast, but Alan Bleasdale's intense drama, described by the writer as "one caring, liberal madman's odyssey through the appalling farce of life in Britain today", remains just as powerful today. Starring Robert Lindsay as the hard-left northern council leader Michael Murray and Michael Palin as Jim Nelson, a headmaster, each feature-length episode is an extraordinary piece of TV that will draw you in for as many hours as you need on a long journey.

Legends *Netflix*
Based on the true story of British customs officers who were sent undercover to infiltrate heroin gangs in the 1980s with virtually no training or back-up, this is a superb drama. With a towering performance from Tom Burke alongside a great cast including Hayley Squires, it's the crime thriller of the year.

The Patient *Disney+*
A hidden gem from 2022, when streamers were still creating more shows than they knew what to do with, this near-perfect two-hander starring Steve Carell and Domhnall Gleeson is about a serial killer who takes his therapist hostage until he can be "cured" of his murdering ways. It's extraordinarily dark, tense and exciting; the time will fly by once you start watching.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD

Almost all streaming platforms allow downloads in the UK to be watched abroad using their phone and tablet apps on IOS and Android devices.

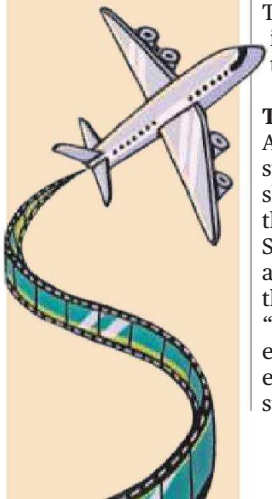
However, there are some things to consider; some do not allow this feature on the free or cheapest subscription tier, not all shows are available and the film selection is often very limited due to licensing.

Most downloads only last for a set period (often 30 days) before they expire, so don't download them too early.

Free downloads
BBC iPlayer
Channel 4 streaming

Included in base subscriptions
Netflix (limited on ad-funded)
Apple TV+
Prime Video
Sky/Now
HBO Max

Additional subscription required
ITVX Premium (£5.99)
Disney+ Standard (£9.99) — downloads not available with ad-funded tier



‘We’re still friends after 48 years’

Didi Conn’s life changed when she played Frenchy in Grease. She tells *Blanca Schofield* about bonding with John Travolta and what really happened behind the scenes

‘Well, what do *you* think about it?” Didi Conn, who played the perky, pink-haired Frenchy in *Grease*, is asking me if I believe the hit film is sexist.

The romance became the highest-grossing film of 1978 and has won over generation after generation, but what’s behind the transformation of Sandy (Olivia Newton-John)? She goes from innocent nerd to black leather-clad bombshell – is it purely for herself, or is it to fit in with the male gaze and win over her love interest, Danny Zuko (John Travolta)? I’m torn. Danny changes for her too, I say. “Exactly!” Conn, 75, yelps excitedly. So not sexist then.

Besides, it was something of a meta storyline too. Newton-John “had a reputation of singing these beautiful love songs and being so sweet… but she also had another sexy side to her. So she looked forward to having that other colour come out,” Conn explains. Newton-John had won a Grammy as a singer for *I Honestly Love You* before joining the cast. She ended up becoming one of the world’s bestselling music artists.

ALAMY

Conn, who lives in New York, is in London for an appearance at Secret Cinema’s *Grease: The Immersive Movie Musical*, which shows the film alongside a live band, actors and recreated movie sets including Frenchy’s beauty school. She is still intimately linked to the film, keeping its legacy alive at events, and often receives letters about it from fans. “So many people have written to me about *Grease*, about doing the show themselves in their high school, and asked me for advice.”

Dressed in a white T-shirt and a Frenchyesque pink-hued necktie, she is a beaming, smiley presence, just like her character in the film. And just like Frenchy and Sandy, she and Newton-John were dear friends.

“We lived very close to each other in Malibu. So I spent more time with her off set. Oh my goodness, she had horses that were just up the hill from where I lived,” she recalls. “And then we did stay very, very good friends.” Conn would perform on stage with her when she was in New York. In 2022 Newton-John died from breast cancer complications aged 73, 30 years after being diagnosed with it. “She was a beautiful person. And she’s in my heart for ever,” Conn says. Conn had uterine cancer last year. “It’s not fun,” she says. Thankfully, though, “it’s gone”.

> **“Stockard Channing was aloof – she stayed away from us all”**

Grease revolutionised pop culture, making superstars of its cast and influencing future high school films such as *Footloose*, *Dirty Dancing* and *High School Musical*. The cast were all much older than the teenagers they played: Conn was 27, Newton-John 29 and Travolta 23. *Grease* was Conn’s big break and Frenchy is at the heart of the film, with a star turn in the song *Beauty School Dropout*.

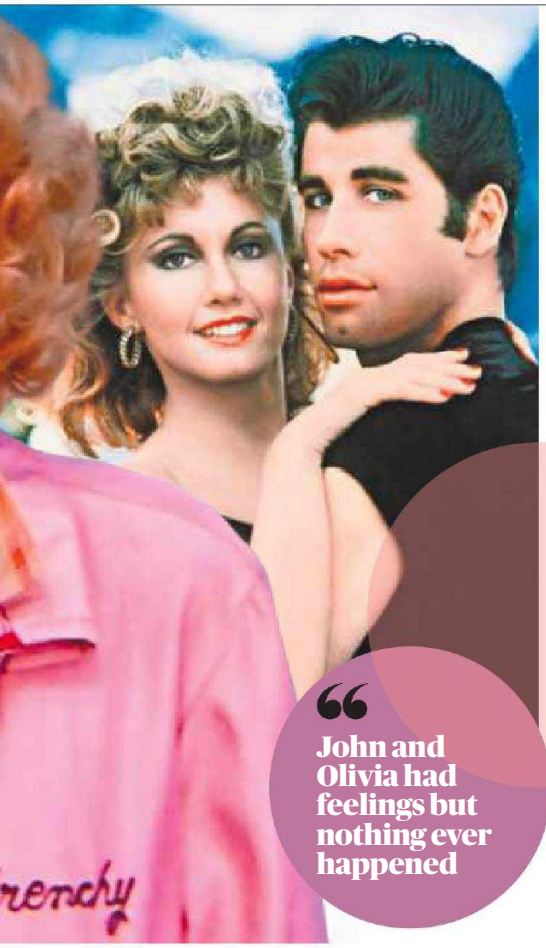
The cast became close during filming. Travolta took Conn and her little brother Richard (who has been a singer in the Met Opera for 30 years) to Disneyland in his limo. He also set up a screening of *Saturday Night Fever* before it came out because he wanted to hear the *Grease* cast’s opinion.

“I remember him saying, ‘I did a movie in Brooklyn last summer. And I don’t know. I don’t think it’s going to do any good,’” Conn says. “We went, ‘John, this is unbelievable.’”

They all remain friends. Conn quotes the final refrain of the film: “‘We’ll always be together.’ It’s been 48 years and we’re still together.” When Jeff Conaway, who plays Danny’s best friend, died in 2011, found unconscious after an overdose, Travolta “had us all meet in a restaurant in Beverly Hills where we could talk”.

Did Conn know Conaway was suffering from substance abuse issues? “I had heard something, but I didn’t know it from him until he did some kind of reality show where he was at a clinic. And that was very shocking to me. I was very sad to see that.”

The one cast member who wasn’t part of the tight-knit



Summer dreams Didi Conn with Olivia Newton-John in Grease; the "sex-bomb" scene; Conn as Frenchy; Newton-John with John Travolta. Below left: Conn today

> **John and Olivia had feelings but nothing ever happened**

circle was Stockard Channing, now 82, who played the hard-nosed Pink Ladies leader, Rizzo. Conn, who has followed Channing's career and goes to see her plays, describes her as "aloof – she just stayed away from everybody". Conn remembers a moment when Channing clashed with Conaway – who played her love interest in the film – after he crossed a line in the diner scene, right before Conn's big *Beauty School Dropout* number.

"[Conaway] gave [Channing] a hickey. She didn't want him to really give her a hickey. She wanted make-up to do it. But he gave her a real hickey and she was pissed off at him." So, although the script said she should throw her milkshake at Conn, she threw it at Conaway. "Five times," Conn says. "[Conaway] was mad."

So Conaway and Channing didn't have a love affair in real life. It was actually Conaway and Susan Buckner (Patty Simcox in the film, Sandy's geeky friend). "They had something going on," Conn says with a smile. Newton-John and Travolta too... "Nothing ever happened, but they really had feelings," Conn says.

The film also portrays the love in teenage friendships, like Frenchy and her gang. Conn grins when I bring it up. She took pride in her character, relating to her desire to get out of formal education – "I was chomping at the bit when I was in high school to go to the High School of Performing Arts in New York. But my parents wouldn't let me because it was in a bad neighbourhood in Manhattan." Conn didn't want Frenchy to be a laughing stock: she didn't like a scene where her hair was compared to candy floss, for example.

That hair! It took a lot of hairspray – Conn's own locks are straight and brunette. "Nobody had pink hair. Nobody had anything like that. So it was pretty outrageous," Conn says of the style in the film. It's the basis for one of the best lines: when Frenchy's love interest, Doody (played by Barry Pearl), tells her she looks "like a beautiful blonde pineapple". This was improvised. Conn hated the outfit the costume team had chosen for her and Pearl was trying to reassure her when he came up with a gem. "The director [Randal Kleiser, also of *The Blue Lagoon*] was standing there and he said, 'Say that.'"

Nobody had any idea that *Grease* would be such a hit, let alone become the highest-grossing film of 1978. Travolta and Newton-John even offered to do a sequel, but the Paramount chiefs decided it wouldn't be worth it. Then when it blew up, they decided "they wanted to do *Grease 2* but John and Olivia were not available". There was subsequently a 1982 sequel starring Michelle Pfeiffer, which Conn took part in, but it was a critical flop.

Conn is very happy with where she is in her life, living in New York with her husband, the film composer David Shire (*All the President's Men* and *The Conversation*). But she did make a pretty significant mistake, she says. And it was because of Ringo Starr. She was offered a chance to co-star with him in *Shining Time Station*, a PBS *Thomas the Tank Engine* spin-off. And she couldn't say no.

"I got to work with a Beatle!" I ask her to describe him. "He was great... like an old hippie." Alas, in the end "it was a bad career move". Did she take the job because of Starr? "Absolutely!" she says with an enormous, no regrets smile.

Since then she has appeared in Broadway productions, as well as *Dancing on Ice*. And she is a wonderful ambassador for *Grease*, with a little help from Travolta. He joined Conn in her live singalong of the film at the Hollywood Bowl last year. They are planning something big for the 50th anniversary in 2028 to raise money for the Centre of Discovery, which helps Conn's autistic son, who is 33, as well as Newton-John and Travolta's foundations.

She also helps new cast members – including the pop star Carly Rae Jepsen when she played Frenchy in 2016. "She started crying... I felt like she was the daughter I never had," Conn says. Does she ever get sick of talking about the film? "No, honestly. I'm so grateful. It makes people happy. I mean, how lucky am I?"

Grease: The Immersive Movie Musical is at Evolution London, Battersea Park, to Sep 13

LIFE AFTER GREASE

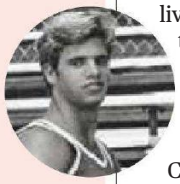
Stockard Channing, 82 ***Rizzo***
Channing, *below*, who lives in London, had notable roles as the first lady Abigail Bartlet in *The West Wing* (1999-2006) and Louisa in *Six Degrees of Separation* (1993). She returns to the screen in September in *Practical Magic 2*. This month she makes her directorial debut at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with the Beckett play *Krapp's Last Tape*.

Dinah Manoff, 70 ***Marty***
Manoff, *left*, continued her acting career after shedding the pink jacket, appearing in the 1988 horror film *Child's Play* and the Broadway production of *I Ought to Be in Pictures*. Today she is more identifiable as the author of the comedy novel *The Real True Hollywood Story of Jackie Gold* (2021).

Barry Pearl, 76 ***Doody***
Pearl, *left*, spent much of the 1990s appearing in network favourites such as *Baywatch*, *Beverly Hills, 90210* and *Barney's Big Surprise*. In 2016 he went back to Rydell High, but this time as a teacher, Mr Weaver, in Fox's *Grease Live!* Most notably, since 2014 he has had an active role in the Inclusion Film Company, run by John Travolta's elder brother Joey, training individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in film production.

Eddie Deezen, 69 ***Eugene***
After *Grease* Deezen, *right*, played supporting roles, notably Herbie in Steven Spielberg's film *1941* in 1979 and Tom Hanks's companion in *The Polar Express* (2004). His career in the 2000s was made up predominantly of guest appearances in children's series. In 2022 Dezeen was arrested for burglary and trespassing and admitted into a nursing facility after being declared mentally unfit to stand trial.

Lorenzo Lamas, 68 ***Tom***
Since his days as Danny Zuko's rival and Rydell High's star athlete, Lamas, *above*, has stepped into aviation, having earned his first pilot's licence in 1997. He has worked for tour companies and volunteered for Angel Flight, a non-profit. He can be found on Cameo, a website where fans can request messages recorded by him for upwards of $70.



Sophie Redfern

The Critics

The sheer, unexpected joy of trains (and extensions)

Charlotte Ivers

Britain's Favourite Railway Stations
Channel 4, Sun

Extraordinary Extensions
Channel 4, Sat

Snoopy Presents: There's No Place Like Home, Snoopy *Apple TV*

I couldn't have been more wrong about Hairy Biker Si King's tour of railway stations, and as for Tinie Tempah's reinvention as a suburban property guru...

One of the better things about this job – falling somewhere below "you can do it in your pyjamas" but above "you are forced to consider the existence of Channel 5" – is the sheer range of television out there. Some weeks, as last week, I was watching two shows that couldn't possibly have had less in common: Phoebe Waller-Bridge in *Fleabag* and Boris Johnson in *Into Ukraine's Kill Zone*. Other weeks, however, a theme emerges. If there is a theme this week, then it is this: it is unfathomable to me that each of these shows exists. And yet I am very glad that they do: each will bring a surprising moment of joy to your day.

Let's start with **Britain's Favourite Railway Stations**, presented by the one-time Hairy Biker Si King. I am ashamed to say that I let out a slight snort of derision on reading about this show. What was King going to do? Take me round the WH Smith at Paddington? But within moments of switching on I was charmed and transfixed.

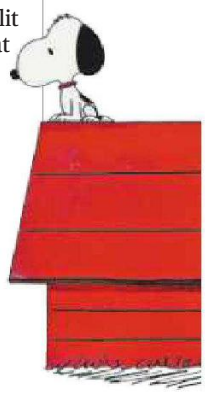
What a wonderful man King is, with his big beard and big smiley face. He could read out the train timetable and I'd consider it mandatory viewing. Indeed, there are times in this show where he comes close to doing exactly that. And yet it is impossible not to become infected with the utter joy with which he greets his task.

York is "the stately home of railway stations", King tells us, beaming. He recruits an excitable young historian to show us round the churchlike structure of the building and the shrapnel in the walls from Second World War bombs. "I couldn't believe what Emma was saying," he says to the camera afterwards, his eyes lit up with such enthusiasm that I began to see every hour I'd spent sulking on a freezing platform, furiously awaiting a delayed train, as a missed opportunity for magic.

King is not alone in reaching blissful nirvana in the nation's transport hubs. It is rare in our cynical age to find a show in which every contributor expresses such unreserved delight. "The camaraderie you have with the passengers, I love that," a member of station staff says to King. Given that much of my morning commute consists of reading posters from Transport for London pleading with me not to racially abuse its staff, it's like looking into a parallel world.

Surprise delights Si King explores UK railway stations; Tinie Tempah explores house extensions

> **Snoopy's happy memories of his kennel made me well up**



Next up, at Haworth station, a stop on the Keighley and Worth Valley heritage line, we learn that most of the staff began working for the place as wide-eyed teenage volunteers – "Does this place run entirely off free labour?" you will briefly wonder – and never felt the need to leave. Clearly, they couldn't imagine a better way to spend their days. Watching as they delightedly show King round, you can't help but feel they are right.

Truly, all of human experience can be found on television, you find yourself thinking when watching this show. Television is the great empathy machine: opening up our living rooms to lives and to ways of living we would never have considered possible.

Did you know, for example, that Tinie Tempah, the early 2010s rapper responsible for hits such as *Pass Out* and *Written in the Stars*, now presents **Extraordinary Extensions**?

The format of this show is precisely what you are imagining: no more, no less. *Extraordinary Extensions* has, I learn, been going since 2021, entirely unbeknown to me. Remarkable. You get up every day, brush your teeth, go to work, never knowing that somewhere out there the man who wrote the soundtrack to the scuzzy house parties of your youth is marching through the conservatories of England soliloquising to the camera about supply-chain problems in the glass industry.

"I've been in the property game since I was 22 as a developer and designer," Tempah, aka Patrick Chukwuemeka Okogwu and now a stately 37, informs us, thus making this whole thing marginally more explicable. Marginally.

As it turns out he's also a deeply charming presenter, full of genuine interest and just the right amount of wry scepticism as he meets people who own beautiful, classic period homes yet say things like: "Yes, we want the extension to look like a spaceship and to contain an indoor resistance swimming pool."

Tempah's excellent sartorial

choices add to the pleasingly surreal air that hangs over the whole thing. Who does not want to watch a man wearing a denim jacket embroidered with large cartoon croissants speak earnestly to a young couple about the merits of heat pumps?

These shows, of course, live or die on the calibre of the members of the public featured: swivel-eyed Dr Frankensteins, recruited to show us round their lunatic creations. The spaceship owners are a teacher, Amy, and her partner, Simon, a professional gambler in a sleeveless vest that reads "Live fast die young". Then there's Alan and Linda, a late-middle-aged couple responsible for ramming a triangular glass behemoth on to the side of their listed 17th-century yeoman's cottage.

In between these *Grand Designs*-style sagas we have interludes in which Tempah visits existing extensions of note. In episode one of the latest series we encounter an Edwardian townhouse in southeast London with another spectacular modern monstrosity out back.

The extension is, Tempah informs us, "inspired by a Disney rollercoaster set on a mountain somewhere in the Alps". Of course. Why wouldn't it be? Inside, "they've even gone as far as to spray the dining chairs with speckled rock-coloured paint", he says, with the air of Kenneth Clark reflecting on Notre-Dame. And why wouldn't they? What a time to be alive.

Both these shows are the offspring of the much maligned Channel 4, and I salute them for their contribution to the gaiety of the nation. Less surprising is the fact that our final show comes from Apple TV, a streamer that has chosen not to base its business model on shovelling 500 algorithmically optimised documentaries about serial killers into our venal, sedated little brains. Instead it operates on the groundbreaking principle that television should be – and I don't want to alarm anyone here – good.

This applies to prestige shows such as *Severance*, *Slow Horses* and *Pluribus*, yes. But it extends to children's programming too. Hence, we have a delightful new contribution to the Peanuts canon: **Snoopy Presents: There's No Place Like Home, Snoopy**.

I'm not hugely sure the plot of this episode matters, but if you must know, Charlie Brown's sister has a yard sale and accidentally sells off Snoopy's kennel. Many lessons about family, home and not being a grasping consumerist ensue. As does an ethereal montage of Snoopy's happy memories with his kennel, which made me well up in a way I consider to be mildly undignified.

This is a beautifully meditative piece of work. I have no idea who it is for. The episode opens with three minutes or so of a wordless dream sequence in which Snoopy flies round on his winged kennel. The whole thing is a slow-moving dream world, jazz piano plinking away in the background.

There is not a child in this TikTok-addled country with the concentration span to enjoy this 30-minute show. I can see it working quite well for newborn babies, or on repeat as one of those TV channels they have in America designed to be watched by dogs: a blissful, peaceful array of colours and sounds. That said, it works for me. I have no doubt it will work for you too.

People power

David Dimbleby is fascinating as he reveals the real changemakers behind great leaders

Sarah Ditum

Sometimes it's good to reset your sense of perspective. As a fortunate soul who spent my teens in the 1990s, luxuriating in the "end of history" after the Cold War, it is easy for me to look at the world today and think that things have never been so terrible.

David Dimbleby, who at 87 is a good deal older than me and an awful lot wiser, would be quite entitled to tell me to go and boil my hysterical little head. Instead, he's made a second series of his very fine history series **Invisible Hands** (Radio 4), which is an equally effective reality check.

Series one followed the rise of free market capitalism in the UK. This series relates how America rose to be the dominant power in the 20th century. That position, Dimbleby says over the sound of Donald Trump, is in crisis. But the US's rise was never either inevitable or smooth – it had to be wrenched from postwar chaos.

Dimbleby subscribes to what you might call the not-so-great men of history theory, one in which human fallibility and great geopolitical currents align to momentous effect.

As the name suggests, the show is about the relatively obscure figures of the middle rank. First up, it's Harry Dexter White, the Treasury official, architect of the IMF and an absolute snake of a negotiator. In the UN summit on regulating the post-Second World War global economy, White represented the US. John Maynard Keynes represented Britain, and his reputation should have ensured success, even if he was struggling with heart problems.

But White, the self-made son of Jewish refugees, hated the privilege that Keynes represented and wanted to ensure the US came out on top. So he staged the summit expertly to stymie Keynes, infuriating him so much that he collapsed and missed the end of the conference.

White seized the opportunity to change the wording of the final agreement, and got his way. The dollar was now king.

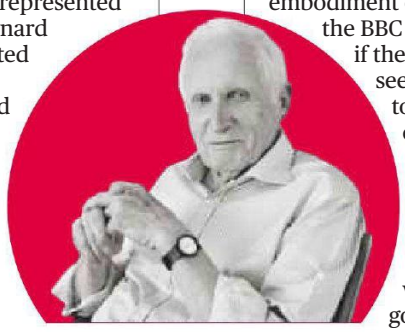
As Dimbleby fills out his protagonists' biographies, he gives you sympathy with them. You may not think they were right, but you understand why they believed they were.

And you feel for them when their fortunes turn, which in White's case happened fast. Just a few years after his trouncing of Keynes, White was accused of being a Soviet spy. He died in 1948 aged 55, broken by his own country, his extraordinary (and devious) act of service forgotten.

What brought about America's change of heart towards Russia? George Kennan, a Chekhov-loving junior US diplomat to the USSR, whose Russophilia turned to deep animosity on exposure to communism in practice.

What brings this to life are the human details – and the human voices, thanks to archive recordings. Kennan's secretary explains in one of these that she tried to put him off sending a crucial dispatch so she would get to a dance that evening.

And, of course, Dimbleby, who treads a perfect line between seriousness and irreverence. He's the embodiment of what makes the BBC excellent, even if the corporation seems determined to do less and less of it. Scratch what I said: maybe the world really is in decline, but at least we've still got Dimbleby.



Secret history David Dimbleby

JACK LAWSON

The superhero movie is saved

Zendaya and Tom Holland's screen chemistry has survived their marriage in a blockbuster worth seeing

Tom Shone

Spider-Man: Brand New Day
Destin Daniel Cretton, 12A, 145min
★★★★

Ish
Imran Perretta, 15, 89min
★★★

What would screenwriters do without amnesia? Without the Neuralyzer, how would Agent K have slipped back into civilian life in between instalments of *Men in Black*? Without a hard data wipe for C3PO, how would he fail to recognise Obi-Wan Kenobi at the start of *Star Wars: A New Hope* once *Revenge of the Sith* had loused up the timeline? The blockbuster movie season makes lotus-eaters of us all.

So you have to hand it to the screenwriters of **Spider-Man: Brand New Day**, Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers, for facing the problem head on. The last Spider-Man film, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, ended with a spell from Dr Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) wiping the memory of the entire cast – MJ, Ned, Happy Hogan – thus giving Peter Parker back his anonymity. At the start of *Brand New Day*, the true cost of Peter's sacrifice is made apparent.

Four years after *No Way Home*, he is living completely alone, amid takeaway cartons and empty protein shakes, and has embraced being Spider-Man full-time rather than trying to rebuild his old life. When MJ (Zendaya) blanks him at a housewarming party for another dude, Spidey takes a lonely swing through a rainy New York, feeling the spider blues.

Ah, the melancholy fate of the lonely superhero left out in the shuffle between reboots. In response to this trauma, Spider-Man's arachnid DNA starts playing up, giving him organic web-spinning powers, headaches and a hot temper: watch out water towers and neon signs as he swings through New York like a learner driver again.

Thus, condition one of a good Spider-Man movie is met: the whole thing stands in, without over-elaboration, for the raging hormones of adolescence in all its sticky glory. "What if you're trying to suppress the expression of something which needs to be expressed?" asks a helpful Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo), speaking on behalf of confused teenagers everywhere. Let the hormones out.

The second condition for a good Spider-Man movie arrives in the form of the Scorpion (Michael Mando), back to stick his stinger in places it isn't wanted. At least, you think it's the scorpion. Actually, it's a new villain, a telepath who can inhabit any mind within a 30-yard radius, which gives them the ability to zigzag down a crowded street, hopping from one innocent bystander to the next, snarling taunts at Spider-Man from each before moving on. Cool.

Superhero movies are only as good as their villains and this one is ingenious since it allows for a fight between Spidey and many of his so-called allies, such as the Hulk and Frank "the Punisher" Castle (Jon Bernthal), as they become possessed in turn.

Even better news: no multiverses, which are basically a euphemism used by

King of the swingers Tom Holland and Zendaya in Spider-Man: Brand New Day

★★★★★ **KO**
★★★★ **A-OK**
★★★ **OK**
★★ **So-so**
★ **No-no**

THE UK'S BEST OPEN-AIR CINEMAS

Cinestock ***Six locations in Sussex and Kent, to Sep 26***
The locations here are part of the draw — watch *Star Wars: A New Hope, left,* surrounded by Cold War fighter planes and with aircraft taking off over the big screen at the Gatwick Aviation Museum, and try to be brave as *Jaws* plays by the water at gorgeous Weir Wood reservoir.

Adventure Cinema ***Various locations, to Oct***
Summer fun across the country, from Alnwick Castle to Westonbirt Arboretum, with a range of films for kids and adults. Younger members of your party can enjoy *Coco*, *Bing* and *The Gruffalo* while you settle down for *Pride and Prejudice* or the like with a drink under the stars.

Rooftop Cinema Club ***Peckham and Stratford, London, to Sep 23***
Rooftop cinema club takes cinemagoing to new heights, literally. Sink into their plush deskchairs, grab a cocktail and slip on wireless headphones to block out the city bustle. Highlights include watching the Elton John biopic *Rocketman* under the stars or *Before Sunrise* at sunset.

Picturehouse ***Four locations, to Sep 13***
Ditch the multiplex as Picturehouse takes its indie-cool vibes alfresco this summer, popping up in spots like Gunnersbury Park in London and York Museum Gardens. Whether you're quoting along to cult classics like *Shaun of the Dead* or dodging dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park*, you get open-air aesthetics that match the on-screen thrills.

Outdoor Cinema UK ***Including Cheshire, Bath and Hull, to Oct***
Pack the picnic basket as these pop-up screenings transform lush parks and majestic stately homes near you into open-air film parties. It's all about laid-back entertainment — roll up, claim your patch of grass and enjoy everything from *Mamma Mia!* to *Scary Movie*.

Barbican ***London, Aug 18-30***
An excellent selection of films, from *Desperately Seeking Susan* to Pedro Almodóvar's new release, *Bitter Christmas*, via Janet Jackson and Tupac in *Poetic Justice*, with a brutalist backdrop by the Barbican lake.

writers to mean "my old drafts". The director, Destin Daniel Cretton, who was at the helm of the excellent *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, has sorted out some of the mass-to-velocity miscalculations that have bedevilled CGI movies ever since the makers of *Jurassic Park* decided to crank a two-ton *T. rex* up to the speed of a Jeep. Previous Spideys have zipped about as if on elastic, but in this one, Spider-Man's swings look like they heave a man's body weight and collapsing buildings no longer seem like something you just shrug off. Hulk smashes, but Hulk also wakes up asking: "Is anybody hurt?"

The best news, though, is that Zendaya and Tom Holland's on-screen chemistry seems to have survived their recent marriage, which used to be the death knell for on-screen couples – whether that's because they look too comfortable together or because we just prefer our on-screen crushes single is hard to say.

Now 30, Holland still looks young enough to play Matt Damon's son in *The Odyssey*, but brings emotional heat to his scenes with MJ, who can, of course, remember nothing of Peter Parker, which lends a note of genuine pathos when they're on screen together. There's a terrific feint, wherein we think she's remembered him with one kiss, which plays into Zendaya's seen-it-all-before sangfroid. When screenwriters pay attention to the actors they're writing for, the results can be magic.

The bad news? There really isn't much, although one should be careful not to get too carried away. Superhero fans have become accustomed to accepting such slop over the years that we tend to collapse with gratitude when a halfway decent film comes along. But *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* is uncruddy, uncynical and unboring, so that's something. It shows what can be done when a studio holds its franchise keepers to the same high standard that they hold everyone else.

Tender Farhan Hasnat, Joy Crookes and Sudha Bhuchar in Ish

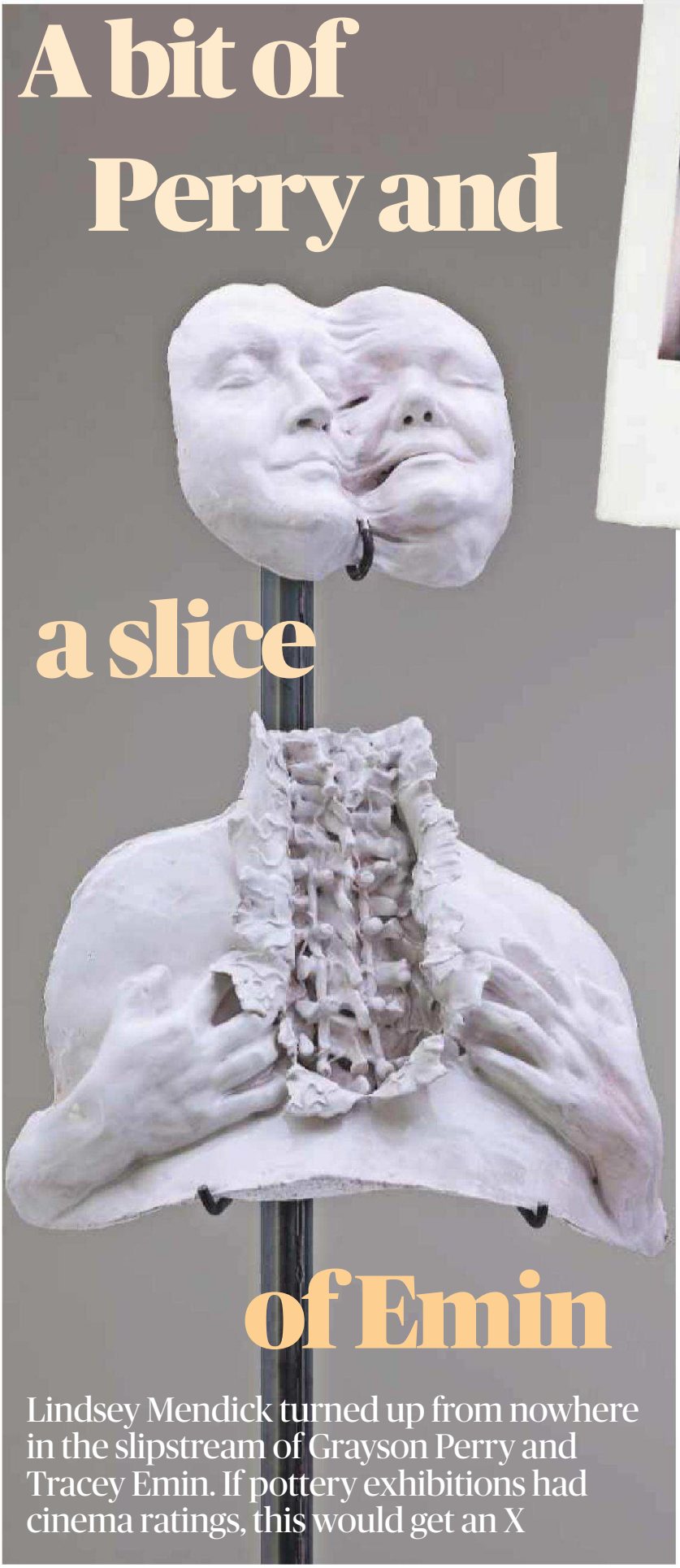
Nothing is spelt out in Ish, everything is observed

A single act of violence punctures a carefree summer in Luton in Imran Perretta's tenderly observed coming-of-age drama, **Ish**. Perretta's film, shot in crisp black-and-white, has a wonderful feel for the indolent rhythms of early adolescence. There's 12-year-old Ish (Farhan Hasnat) and his best friend Maram (Yahya Kitana), who spend their days roaming woods, gaming and insulting one another. "Your mum likes me better than she likes you," Ish says, as he drops Maram home one day, although the joke has a sting: his own family is grieving from the recent loss of Ish's mother.

Nothing is spelt out, everything is observed. There's violence in the air, even before the police stop-and-search that scoops up Maram then ejects him, humiliated, back on to a suburban street. Ish, meanwhile, runs off and afterwards struggles with the guilt of having run. Slowly their friendship begins to unravel. The two actors are friends in real life and it shows in their easy rapport and the way they portray it fracturing. Shuffling aside to make room for him on the bus, Ish watches Maram walk past him to sit with his older friends instead. There's a special place for the film-maker intent on capturing something as small and important as that.

Waldemar Januszczak

A bit of Perry and a slice of Emin



Perfectly potty From left: part of the installation Where You End and I Begin; Wacky Wednesday (Spicing things up); Baby Jesus; Our Disastrous Couples Therapy. Below right: Lindsey Mendick

Lindsey Mendick turned up from nowhere in the slipstream of Grayson Perry and Tracey Emin. If pottery exhibitions had cinema ratings, this would get an X

Artists arrive on the scene in different ways. Some work diligently for decades and are finally noticed. Others scream, "Look at me!" in their student shows. But the ones who set the pulse speeding, the really precious ones, are the ones who turn up from nowhere like a truck crashing through your living room wall.

So it was with Lindsey Mendick. In 2022, having never heard of her before, I reviewed a survey called *Strange Clay: Ceramics in Contemporary Art* at the Hayward Gallery, and there she was, the in-house ceramicist at the Bates Motel, creating squalid domestic interiors with clay and tampering with the plumbing so the rats, the slugs, the cockroaches could crawl in. I even remember an octopus slithering out of the lavatory. This wasn't what ceramics were put on earth to do. Who the hell was Lindsey Mendick?

Over the next couple of years, in show after show, in Scotland, in Norwich, she emerged more roundly. A noisy colour bomb with blue hair. She was from Margate, an uncouth working-class voice determined to crash the posh enclave of pottery and inject honesty and vulgarity into its storylines.

Of course, her path had been cleared by Grayson Perry. Of course, working in Margate, she was working in the shadow of Tracey Emin. In *Where You End and I Begin*, her hair-raising new collection at the Carl Freedman Gallery, those influences are foregrounded – until the Mendick Me Monster grabs the show and starts whacking it about. Not even Emin has told us as much as this about her turbulent love life.

The opening sights are very Perry. A dozen vases arranged on plinths pull us into the psychodrama with snippets of image embedded in the glaze and slithery inventions for the handles. Some snakes. Some worms. Some chains.

The first vase shows Mendick dressed as the Holy Mary holding a dog, a cuddly pug, in the classic mother and child pose while the golden cherubs that surround her sing of love. One artwork down and already we have blasphemy, cosplay, interspecies attraction and the carefree corruption of mythology.

The image of the Holy Lindsey cradling her dog turns out to be as soppy as the show gets. From here on it's *Fifty Shades of Grey* laced ever more generously with Dostoevsky: sex, sex, sex; me, me, me; worry, worry, worry. At intervals we pause to admire the glistening of an exposed human organ, inevitably a heart, hacked out brusquely from a chest. If pottery exhibitions had cinema ratings, this one would get an X.

While the pots point to Perry, the Polaroids on the first walls point to Emin. Unsettlingly intimate, they feature Mendick and her boyfriend making love while the pug looks on. It's the kind of outrageously personal Polaroid fest Emin has pioneered, although in this instance the revealing snaps have been dipped in clay.

Having paid tribute to her influences, Mendick spends the rest of the show leaving them behind and plunging us ever deeper into a ceramic netherworld of Sadean sex and furious relationship anxiety.

LINDSEY MENDICK, COURTESY CARL FREEDMAN GALLERY. PHOTOGRAPHY: OLLIE HARROP; GEMMA DAY

Initially, the middle room appears charming. The line of decorated plaques that encircle you have an instructional mood like the souvenir signs you can buy on the Margate seafront that say "Don't call it a dream, call it a plan" or "This is our happy place". But where those are fluffy, Mendick's are searing, rousing, bitingly honest.

"The beast in you hates the bitch in me," spits one. "It was like f***ing a Soprano," screams another. She's sharing the intimate secrets of her relationship with a guy called Guy, cast here as boyfriend and torturer, lover and hater, destroyer and saviour. All I know about Guy is what I can see and read on this sweaty journey, but one quality I know him to possess is fortitude. Mendick, in her own art, in her own words, is a handful.

By now it's clear that for all its gore and angst this is a show about love: the Lindsey and Guy story with every window thrown open. Against its will, the formerly sophisticated medium of ceramics has been pushed into the bedroom and handcuffed to honesty. A potter with intense identity issues is spilling every bean she owns.

It's clear that for all its gore and angst this is a show about love

The final room is the show's masterpiece. Until now the work has been knick-knack-sized: gaudy and petite. Suddenly the artistic vision enlarges and bleaches. Stretched out before us is a huge vitrine filled with snowy-white body parts arranged on thin metal poles. Angelic music accompanies the mood switch. But it cannot hide the Auschwitz vibe.

In the 18th century Meissen employed gleaming white porcelain to look classy. In Margate in the 21st century, Mendick uses it to heighten the moments. Bride of Chucky got here before us and the body parts she left behind – the mouths, the hands, the fingers, the breasts – seem to be attacking each other and telling an unfolding story of love and squalor.

Is that strangling or is it sex? Is he biting her or eating her? Lindsey and Guy are re-enacting their tempestuous relationship in stop-start animation done with clay. The resulting love drama pulls you in and demands attention. I circled and recircled the action like a dog on a leash.

Lindsey Mendick: Where You End and I Begin is at the Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, to Aug 30; Tears 2026 is at TKE Studios, Margate, to Aug 31

REMEMBER THE NAMES

While you're in Margate, find time to visit the latest graduation show at Emin's art school. The nine artists are all painters. All make strong debuts. My favourites were Iyunola Sanyaolu and Esme Keenleyside. Remember the names.

Iyunola Sanyaolu
Sanyaolu's paintings, such as *Fish in Orange Juice, above*, have surfaces as rich and tasty as Italian gelati. Her scenes of quiet domesticity try to push through, but only just make it. So the art hovers alluringly on the edge of abstraction.

Esme Keenleyside
Keenleyside has a thing about teddy bears. They haunt most of her pictures, including *When Morning Arrives, above*. It's never the cuddly teddy of little girls' dreams, but a thoughtful, philosophical presence: the Plato teddy.

ON RECORD

Durutti's still got it

The Durutti Column
Renascent
★★★★
London

After a lifetime on the margins, Vini Reilly, Manchester's retiring virtuoso of atmospheric guitar, is finally getting his dues, with Harry Styles, Frank Ocean and the Swedish rapper Yung Lean among the younger artists singing his praises. This album, marking the return of Reilly's longstanding band after a ten-year gap — and a series of strokes in 2010 — illustrates his position as a master of meditative subtleties, albeit one prepared to pull the prayer mat from under the listener every now and then. While the beautiful *Your Shadow at Morning* and *Time Present and Time Past* sound like aural aids to reaching satori, the fractured beats of *Liars* and tortured mumbles of *Scammer* serve as a reminder that life is rarely smooth sailing. This is instrumental music from an independent mindset with classical sophistication, in particular the optimistic epic *For Friends Everywhere*.

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Will Hodgkinson

ODB remembered

NEWS More than two decades since he died from an overdose in 2004, after numerous jail spells, Russell Jones, aka Ol' Dirty Bastard of the New York rap collective Wu-Tang Clan, has had a street named after him. ODB Jones Way in Brooklyn pays tribute to the memory of a hip-hop eccentric who once drove a limousine to cash a $375 welfare check. ***WH***

Dylan marches on

TOUR You take your chances with a Bob Dylan gig: old favourites might be mangled, or delivered with transcendent grace. But recent sets suggest reason for optimism. ***WH***
Windsor Hall, Bournemouth, Nov 25; BP Pulse Live, Birmingham, Nov 26; Utilita Arena, Sheffield, Nov 27; Opera House, Blackpool, Nov 30 & Dec 1; Royal Festival Hall, London, Dec 3-8

A poem to put on repeat?

CLASSICAL Imagine a demon creeps up and tells you that you will have to live your exact life — every joy, humiliation, cold cup of tea, dull afternoon — over and over for eternity. This was Nietzsche's challenge to his followers, asking them to live life so intensely that they would be willing to revisit every spit and cough.

The philosopher inspired many others, particularly composers, whose lives were often more about wild instinct than doing the dishes. On Friday the excellent Proms performance by John Storgards and the BBC Philharmonic, *below*, of Richard Strauss's tone poem, *Also sprach Zarathustra* — a suitably vast setting of one of Nietzsche's most famous works — is televised on BBC4 (Fri, 7pm, and iPlayer). And how does Strauss answer the question of what makes a life so good it can be repeated? With a waltz, the luscious, intoxicating *Das Tanzlied*.

Neil Fisher

BBC

Oscar Wilde's pain

One-man shows are suddenly fashionable but this stands out for its fresh, poignant take

Susie Goldsbrough

The Importance of Being Oscar
Park Theatre, London
★★★★★

When something becomes super-fashionable, it's important to be suspicious. Take one-man West End shows. I'm sick of hearing that Sarah Snook played 26 roles in her *Picture of Dorian Gray*, or that Cynthia Erivo juggled a pathetically unambitious 23 in her *Dracula* (to be fair, that's not counting the beard changes). One-man shows have become cynical celebrity stunt vehicles: cheap to stage and expensive to see; ultra-theatre for the ultra-gullible. I prefer the ones that confine themselves to dank basements at the Edinburgh Fringe, à la *Fleabag*.

So I was trepidatious about **The Importance of Being Oscar**, a one-man show at the Park Theatre in north London, depicting the life of Oscar Wilde. Happily, this revival starring Alastair Whatley, which arrives in London fresh from a few months' touring, turns out to be neither cynical nor basement-bound. It's a gentle, old-fashioned, poignant show that turns a figure usually reduced to cultural caricature back into a feeling, suffering human being.

The Importance of Being Oscar was written and first performed in Dublin in 1960 by Micheal Mac Liammoir, a gay Irishman, 30 years before gay sex was decriminalised in Ireland. Lasting a crisp 90 minutes (any more would hardly be humane to the actor), it tells the triumph-to-disaster story of Wilde's life, from champagne fame as a playwright to his ill-fated love for Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas, which ended in a humiliating public trial for gross indecency.

It's a familiar story, but one that feels fresh and engaging thanks to Mac Liammoir's script, which largely lets the real people speak for themselves through letters, court transcripts and a generous helping of Wilde's plays and poetry. When Mac Liammoir's own voice appears, it's pleasingly Wildean, full of colourful phrases and aphoristic observations: the Marquess of Queensberry "was always hating somebody, it was his hobby, but at the moment it happened to be Oscar Wilde".

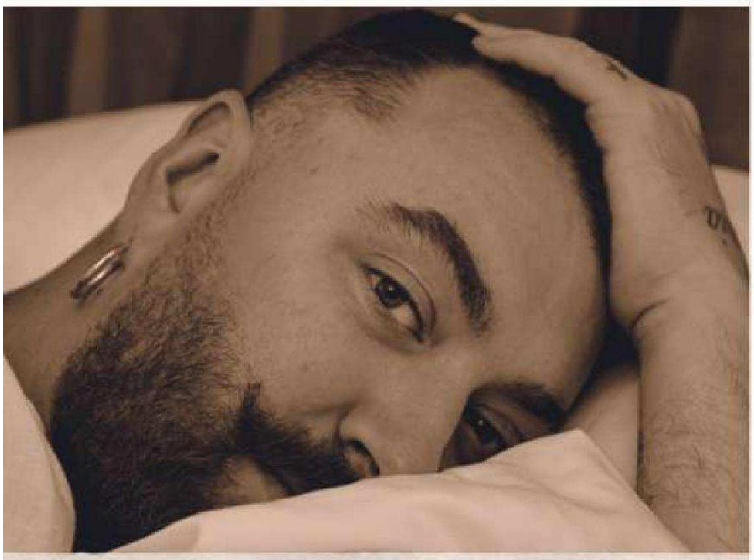
Whatley, sporting a splendid burnt-orange corduroy suit, wisely doesn't overcook his characters: there are just small but effective variations on his cut-glass narrator and an impressively brisk tempo. Unflaggingly energetic, he clips through the story, supported only by a couple of pointless props. His most theatrical moment is a committed rendition of Lady Bracknell's interrogation of her daughter's suitor from *The Importance of Being Earnest*, playing both parts, of course: "Do you smoke?" "Well, yes, I must admit I smoke." "I am glad to hear it. A man should always have an occupation of some kind." What a treat to hear Wilde's dialogue sing.

The show's poignant second half begins with the judge's vicious indictment ("It is of no use for me to address you. People who can do these things must be dead to all sense of shame") and is dominated by a long extract from *De Profundis* – Wilde's bitter, anguished letter to the heartless Bosie from prison – and a full, chilling recital of *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*. Again, the material will be vaguely familiar to many, but what a difference there is between vague familiarity and watching a man with desperate, gleaming eyes tell us: "For each man kills the thing he loves,/ Yet each man does not die."

There is something charmingly old-fashioned about the way the play is simplified into a literary recital – it is like being a Victorian turning out to hear Dickens read from one of his books. Because it's a small show and a good one, part of me wants to proclaim in a grand, Wildean manner: "Give it the *Fleabag* treatment! Make it telly, make it big." But maybe not everything needs improving. Fear, humiliation, love: I knew the story of Oscar Wilde, but this show made me feel it.

Unflagging energy
Alastair Whatley

MARC BRENNER



Sam Smith

TO BE FREE

LIVE

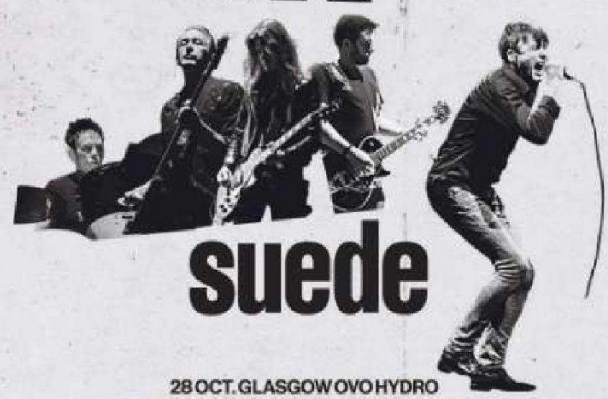
MANCHESTER		LONDON	
ALBERT HALL		COLISEUM	
3 SEPTEMBER		8 SEPTEMBER	15 SEPTEMBER
4 SEPTEMBER		9 SEPTEMBER	16 SEPTEMBER
		11 SEPTEMBER	18 SEPTEMBER
		12 SEPTEMBER	19 SEPTEMBER

GIGSANDTOURS.COM TICKETMASTER.CO.UK

AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH C&A

AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH X-RAY & 13 ARTISTS

MANIC STREET PREACHERS



suede

28 OCT. GLASGOW OVO HYDRO
30 OCT. LEEDS FIRST DIRECT BANK ARENA
31 OCT. MANCHESTER CO-OP LIVE
3 NOV. CARDIFF UTILITA ARENA
4 NOV. CARDIFF UTILITA ARENA
6 NOV. LONDON THE O2
7 NOV. BIRMINGHAM UTILITA ARENA
11 NOV. NOTTINGHAM MOTORPOINT ARENA
12 NOV. BOURNEMOUTH INT. CENTRE

ON TOUR 2026

GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK | AXS.COM

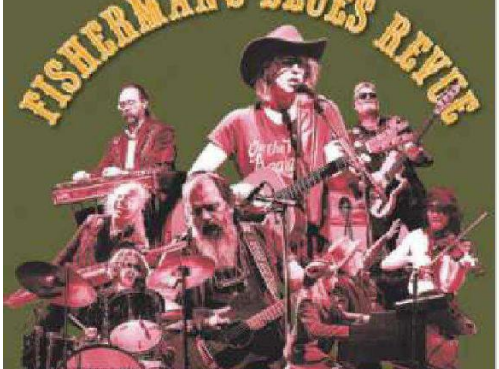
SJM CONCERTS, REGULAR MUSIC & AIKEN PRMOTIONS PRESENTS

the Waterboys

FEATURING

Steve Earle

FISHERMAN'S BLUES REVUE



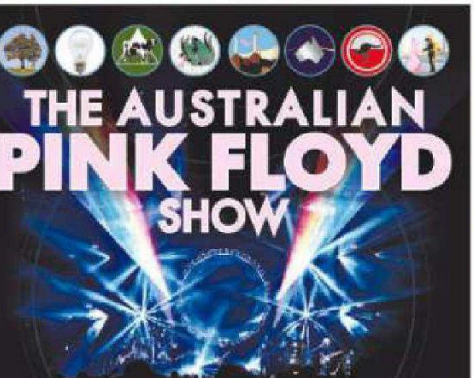
RE-IGNITING THE SPIRIT OF THEIR CLASSIC ALBUM

Saturday 29 August 2026
GLASGOW OVO HYDRO
OVOHYDRO.COM

Saturday 5 September 2026
DUBLIN 3ARENA
TICKETMASTER.IE

Saturday 12 September 2026
LONDON THE O2
AXS.COM
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK | GIGSANDTOURS.COM

THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD SHOW

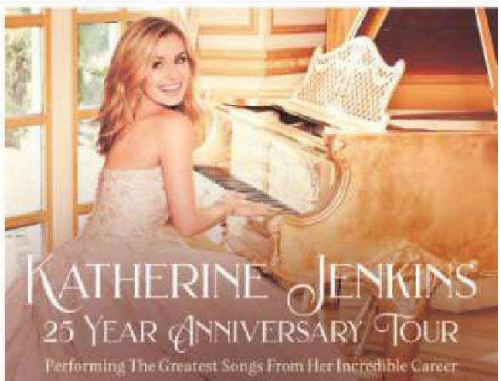


GREATEST HITS TOUR 2026
THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF OUR LIVES

'Perfect in just about every way' ★★★★★ THE TIMES

MONDAY SOLD OUT TOBER BRISTOL BEACON	TUE 17 & WED 18 NOVEMBER MILTON KEYNES THEATRE
TUESDA SOLD OUT TOBER BATH FORUM	FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER PLYMOUTH PAVILION
WEDNES SOLD OUT CTOBER LLANDUDNO VENUE CYMRU	SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER BRIGHTON CENTRE
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER ABERDEEN P&J LIVE	MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER EASTBOURNE CONGRESS THEATRE
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER GLASGOW OVO HYDRO	TUESDA SOLD OUT EMBER SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION
SUNDA SOLD OUT EMBER EDINBURGH USHER HALL	THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER BOURNEMOUTH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
TUESDA SOLD OUT EMBER LONDON ROYAL ALBERT HALL	FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER SWANSEA BUILDING SOCIETY ARENA
WEDNESDAY 04 NOVEMBER STOCKTON GLOBE	SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER CARDIFF UTILITA ARENA
FRIDAY 06 NOVEMBER NEWCASTLE O2 CITY HALL	MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER STOKE REGENT THEATRE
SATURD SOLD OUT VEMBER SHEFFIELD CITY HALL	TUESDA SOLD OUT EMBER NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL
SUNDA SOLD OUT EMBER LIVERPOOL EMPIRE	WEDNES SOLD OUT ECEMBER OXFORD NEW THEATRE
TUE 10 & WED 11 NOVEMBER BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL	FRIDA SOLD OUT MBER PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL
FRIDA SOLD OUT EMBER MANCHESTER O2 APOLLO	SATURD SOLD OUT EMBER CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE
SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER BLACKPOOL OPERA HOUSE	
MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL	

GIGSANDTOURS.COM | TICKETMASTER.CO.UK
VIP PACKAGES SJM-VIP.COM | AUSSIEFLOYD.COM



KATHERINE JENKINS

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Performing The Greatest Songs From Her Incredible Career

Plus special guest
JODOKCELLO

OCTOBER 2026

FRI 02 MANCHESTER BRIDGEWATER HALL
SAT 03 LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL
SUN 04 CARDIFF MILLENNIUM CENTRE
TUE 06 BRIGHTON DOME
THU 08 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION
FRI 09 BOURNEMOUTH PAVILION THEATRE
SUN 11 OXFORD NEW THEATRE
MON 12 BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL
WED 14 LONDON PALLADIUM
THU 15 YORK BARBICAN
SAT 17 LLANDUDNO VENUE CYMRU THEATRE
SUN 18 GATESHEAD THE GLASSHOUSE
MON 19 GLASGOW ROYAL CONCERT HALL
WED 21 TORQUAY PRINCESS THEATRE
THU 22 AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE
FRI 23 BASINGSTOKE THE ANVIL

TICKETMASTER.CO.UK GIGSANDTOURS.COM
KATHERINEJENKINS.CO.UK

PRESENTED BY SJM CONCERTS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH WME

Books

What if a deadly toxin escaped?

The author of Nuclear War: A Scenario imagines another terrifying future — bubonic plague leaks from a Russian lab, causing mass death across the world

Book of the week

Biological War A Scenario
by Annie Jacobsen
Torva £22 pp432

Mark Urban

Imagine the sum of all fears. For many in the national security world, as well as those working in public health, it is the escape of some diabolical toxin from a lab.

You don't have to get far into Annie Jacobsen's new book before the apocalyptic images start multiplying like a deadly bacillus in a Petri dish. Her scenario involves a modified *Y. pestis* (bubonic plague) bacterium, "causing mass death, total societal breakdown, widespread insurrection and anarchy, leaving behind a plague-ravaged wasteland that no longer resembles modern civilisation".

In guiding the reader through emergency procedures and how they fail to meet this challenge, she echoes her last hit, *Nuclear War: A Scenario*, a bestseller that was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford prize and is being turned into a film by Denis Villeneuve. This one has a similar style, the narrative passages interspersed with panels of information or case studies, as well as photographs and graphics.

Jacobsen has been described a little sniffily by some as writing for the TikTok generation, those of limited attention spans and poor general knowledge, but I've no problem with her style, it's very effective. Indeed, you might argue that her books on nuclear and biological warfare establish a new genre we might call New Fear Unlocked.

From the lab accident in Koltsovo, deep in Russia, to infected individuals spreading this terrible bacterium across the world, she never stops piling on the dread. In a powerful early scene the scientist working on it goes to church and confesses to a priest that "last night I tried to destroy what I was working on but it backfired... it turned into an explosion".

He is already a carrier, and on his way out of church passes a medical student, whom he infects on the eve of his return to Los Angeles. That carrier in turn spreads it to the down-and-outs at the homeless shelter where he volunteers, while other people who were in Koltsovo at the time for a hunting trip travel back home, spreading it to people on planes and yet more countries. Stepping through the worst-case scenarios, Jacobsen describes a misdiagnosis in a US hospital lab, writing, "but there's more unfortunate news" – and this is on page 152 after I don't know how many unlocked fears.

The grisly descriptions of the bubonic plague, picked up by airborne infection and bred to be resistant to antibiotics, as it ravages the bodies of its carriers, killing them within three days, are not for the faint-hearted. LA becomes an epicentre of infection, as it spreads out from the city's homeless district, Skid Row; order breaks down and the president tells his cabinet that "there aren't enough antibiotics to go around, so tens of millions, or maybe even 100 million, Americans are going to die". Jacobsen roots her story in previous epidemics, government disaster exercises and multiple interviews with experts.

> **As the plague spreads, Annie Jacobsen piles on the dread**

She reinforces the narrative by cleverly blending examples of public health missteps during the Covid pandemic: for instance, the misdiagnosis of disease and a blindness to the dangers of people passing it on while asymptomatic. By drawing on our experience as readers, this makes for a more convincing story than her

JUNG YEON-JE/AFP; COSTFOTO/GETTY IMAGES

nuclear war book, which I felt required everything to go wrong that possibly could and lacked from the outset a convincing motive for someone to start a nuclear war.

Nobody deliberately launches this "biological war", not least because deploying a nightmare pathogen such as this would probably slaughter millions of your people as well as the enemy's. No, this disaster happens because scientists keep experimenting with things that are really better left alone – under the rubric of preparing a defence against their enemies. Eventually something is bound to get out.

If I have a reservation about *Biological War* it is that it probably overstates the achievements of the Soviet (later Russian) covert biological weapons programme. This was hidden in an enterprise called Biopreparat, which had several branches. Its Koltsovo one serves as the origin of this book's pathogen; another, in St Petersburg, specialised in weaponising biological agents.

As it happens, I was the first journalist to expose the full detail of this, one of two non-government people ever to interview Vladimir Pasechnik, the director of the St Petersburg site who defected to the UK, and part of the only western media team to visit and film inside Biopreparat. Pasechnik told me that while the organisation had tried to produce antibiotic-resistant infections, this project had failed.

The access we got was part of a programme of denial being undertaken by the Russians. Western intelligence agencies suspected that the generals and scientists were keeping it going while lying to their leader at the time, Mikhail Gorbachev.

In St Petersburg the lab had been cleaned up when we filmed, but one scientist whispered to us that we shouldn't trust a word that Pasechnik's successor was telling us. So, while the message at this time was that they had not developed an antibiotic-resistant bioweapon, it was very hard to be sure.

There is sufficient suspicion that Covid emerged from a Chinese lab for her scenario to seem all too credible

Jacobsen quotes another Biopreparat defector to suggest they did succeed in creating this type of super-plague. But consulting with some experts while reviewing her book, I would say that doubts still exist about whether the Russians succeeded in this.

In Pasechnik's telling the whole enterprise was an example of Russian inefficiency, a job creation scheme for the scientists. The programme continued, he argued, because biological weapons such as anthrax or tularaemia could be useful in certain circumstances, since, as naturally occurring pathogens, outbreaks affecting your enemies can be deniable.

Does his view that they never achieved antibiotic resistance mean that the author's narrative is built on implausible foundations? Not really – it is possible that such a goal has been reached since, and in any case, the existence of other potentially highly dangerous "gain-of-function" experiments in many laboratories, modifying existing germs, is well documented.

That does not mean, however, that infections will always constitute an existential threat. The recent Ebola outbreak shows for now anyway that even quite lethal and contagious infections can be checked by basic public health measures.

So the book is best treated as a "what if" about human fallibility and the risk of experimenting with such terrible diseases. There is sufficient suspicion around the world that Covid emerged from a Chinese lab in Wuhan for this to seem all too credible.

The chemical and biological defence establishments, such as Porton Down in Wiltshire, are caught between the Devil and the deep blue sea. They need to understand what might be achieved in weaponising chemistry or genetic modification to come up with possible countermeasures, but doing so exposes all of us to risk. This risk is compounded by the possibility that someone working inside one of these facilities could go rogue. In 2001, a week after the 9/11 terror attacks, envelopes containing anthrax arrived at the offices of several journalists and politicians in the US, infecting 22 and causing five deaths.

On the plus side, this relatively modest toll showed the challenges of weaponising such pathogens. But the prime suspect, Bruce Ivins, who took his own life, was a scientist at Fort Detrick, the American equivalent of Porton Down.

For many years government emergency plans were therefore focused on bioterrorism or the possibility of an insider threat. Now, however, the national security agencies are focused more on how artificial intelligence might be used for civilisation-ending gain-of-function research, designing poisons that would defy treatment or target specific types of people. For that reason the author's timing is impeccable.

In the 1640s a witch-hunting frenzy swept the country. A historian delves into the archives to discover the unsettling stories of the accused

Witch! No, a victim of nasty neighbours

History

Witchland A Tale of Witch Hunting and War in Seventeenth-Century Britain
by Marion Gibson
Simon & Schuster £22 pp320

Katherine Harvey

One day in the summer of 1649 an excited crowd gathered in the centre of Newcastle. Sandhill, which hosted a twice-weekly market, was always a bustling area, but these visitors had come to witness a very different spectacle: the public pricking of no fewer than 30 suspected witches. If they did not bleed, or at least flinch, when jabbed with a large needle, these unfortunate women would be presumed guilty and carted off for trial at the next assizes.

Even by 17th-century standards this was an extraordinarily brutal event. But, as Marion Gibson (emerita professor of Renaissance and magical literatures at the University of Exeter, and author of several books on witchcraft) recounts in *Witchland*, Britain had spent much of the 1640s caught up in a frenzy of witch-hunting. In less than a decade about 200 people were executed, with many more being accused of using black magic to harm people and animals.

These horrors were partly a consequence of the political and religious turmoil of civil war. In explaining this crucial context, Gibson has an unfortunate tendency to talk down to the reader, promising that "you won't need to know about all these sects to follow the story of the witch hunt, so don't worry". And her attempts to make her material relatable (which include asking us to imagine what we would do in this situation and making frequent references to "fake news") can grate.

But Gibson is an immensely knowledgeable and engaging guide to a bizarre historical phenomenon, with a knack for teasing out the individual stories behind the national panic, and her case study-based approach reveals the importance of local dynamics. In Newcastle the beleaguered city corporation – plagued by trade disputes and frequent incursions by Scottish soldiers – hoped to assert its authority by hiring a witchfinder who had recently enjoyed success in nearby Berwick.

This man was one of many magistrates, clergymen and self-appointed witchfinders whose fanaticism fuelled the witch craze. Most were devout Puritans prone to view life as a constant battle against the Devil and his agents, which meant that good Christians had a religious duty to judge their neighbours.The worst of them combined religious zealotry with greed. The Newcastle witchfinder's contract promised him 20 shillings a witch rather than a flat fee, giving him a clear incentive to find as many as he could. And opponents of the self-styled witchfinder general, Matthew Hopkins (who identified dozens of witches before dying of TB in his late twenties), scoffed that "all that the witchfinder doth is to fleece the country of their money".

Rough justice Margaret Peg Grover undergoes trial by water. Below: Marion Gibson

For Gibson, these repugnant men are less interesting than their victims, whose stories are at the heart of this discomforting book. In Framlingham, for example, the accused included Mary Scrutton (a mother tempted by the Devil to kill her baby) and Margaret Wyard (who saw the Devil in the shape of her late husband's ghost). Both confessed only after days of sleep deprivation, a technique also used on their neighbour, Ellen Driver. Her account of refusing to sleep with the Devil when he was courting her, marrying him in church and bearing him two short-lived children maps so closely on to the biographical details painstakingly uncovered by Gibson's archival research that it is hard not to suspect that this elderly woman was tortured into presenting her real life as a demonic fantasy.

The witchfinder was promised 20 shillings a witch

FOTOTECA GILARDI/GETTY IMAGES; NEIL SPENCE

Tragically, the experiences of this unfortunate trio were far from unique, with countless other poor, vulnerable women being similarly persecuted throughout the 1640s. Poor men were also vulnerable: the agricultural labourer John Winwick was hanged for agreeing to worship the Devil (which appeared to him as a rabbit-sized bear) in return for help to find a missing purse and a promise that he would never go hungry.

Indeed, even wealthy men such as John Lowes, a vicar who was denounced to Hopkins by his long-suffering neighbours, were not immune. With numerous convictions for disruptive behaviour and a penchant for reporting his parishioners for Sabbath-breaking (on one occasion after deliberately tricking a tailor into fixing his breeches on a Sunday), he was undoubtedly an unpleasant man. That he really committed the magical ship sinkings and cattle killings for which he was executed seems rather less plausible.

But many 17th-century people accepted and even welcomed such deaths, genuinely believing that ordinary men and women such as Lowes could do real harm to those who crossed them. There were a few dissenting voices – notably Isobel Ewart, the brave wife of a Scottish laird, who publicly accused the witch-obsessed minister Hew Kennedie of "putting innocent women to death".

Even at the height of the panic some were acquitted – including the nursemaid Ann Jeffries, who ended up in Bodmin jail after admitting that she was regularly visited by "six small people, all in green clothes". When, after an argument, Ann's employer broke her leg, these sinister fairies got the blame.

Fifty years later one of her former charges – by then a bankrupt London publisher in search of a bestseller to pay off his debts – tracked her down and, despite her desire for privacy, proceeded to publish *An Account of One Ann Jefferies* (1696). In preserving her story for posterity he enhanced our knowledge of early modern magic. But, on learning of his betrayal, his subject must have wished that she really had those powers for which she had suffered so much.

Passion, jealousy and brain surgery

A veteran writer channels the spirit of EM Forster in his tale of thwarted love in Egypt

Fiction

Passage
by Colin Thubron
Chatto & Windus £14.99 pp144

Johanna Thomas-Corr

Colin Thubron occupies a curious place in English letters. Like Graham Greene, Norman Lewis and Lawrence Osborne, he belongs to a small fraternity of men who are both travel writers and novelists. In non-fiction books such as *Among the Russians* (1983) and *Shadow of the Silk Road* (2006) and in novels like *A Cruel Madness* (1984), Thubron treats journeys as opportunities for moral inquiry – he is interested in the psychological as much as the physical distances between people.

But perhaps the most significant influence on Thubron is EM Forster, who believed that travel exposed the possibilities and failures of human connection. His "only connect" was as much lament as aspiration. In *Passage*, Thubron's ninth novel (or novella, really), his travellers barely understand themselves, let alone Egypt, the country they are visiting.

The opening is instantly arresting. Kathleen, an actress in her forties, is undergoing an "awake craniotomy" to remove a tumour that is "pressing on the structure of her memory". Her skull is open but she must remain conscious, speaking throughout as surgeons navigate the folds of her brain.

Kathleen's husband, Robert, a neurologist in his fifties, has never witnessed such an operation. Staring into "a turmoil of pink and crimson" tissue, he feels "a sudden, absurd resentment that she has nurtured this labyrinthine secret in her head, even the tumour, like the material manifestation of her elusiveness". It's a striking image of a diseased marriage.

The operation is followed by a long-planned trip to Egypt. The couple insist that Robert's unmarried brother, Alan, accompany them to relieve the marital tension. But Alan has loved Kathleen since they were teenagers. When they kissed on a fallen elm tree "he felt something irrevocable, like falling", accompanied by "a tinge of fear". Later, Kathleen met Robert and married him instead – and three decades later Alan's love has become a terrible affliction.

Thubron shifts elegantly between the perspectives of Kathleen, Robert, Alan and, later, their Egyptian tour guide, Ashraf. The descent into the Valley of the Kings acquires an almost symbolic force, each passage narrowing towards death. The pharaonic tombs and burial chambers become a sort of metaphor for the brain, with hidden passages preserving memories, different identities and the possibility of an afterlife for a woman who used to think religion was "bullshit" but is now facing her own mortality.

Kathleen remains elusive to both brothers. She is impulsive yet self-contained, seen by Alan as "at once wild and serene, tolerant and fiercely judgmental". She has endured her husband's affairs with a kind of weary detachment.

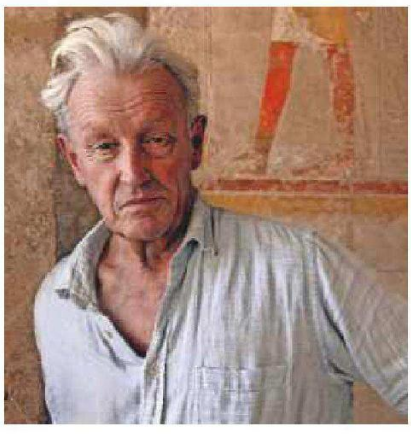
But she does find herself drawn to Ashraf when he talks of the Arab Spring, feeling a "tremulous elation" at his desire for revolution although she privately admits to knowing little about the political situation in Egypt.

Alan, meanwhile, seethes as he observes their guide looking at Kathleen with "soft doting" eyes. He becomes dangerously aware that Ashraf's tendency to "speak too strongly for Islam" could get the Egyptian into trouble. You might be able to see where this is going, if you're familiar with Forster's *A Passage to India* – the title is no coincidence. Ashraf recalls the character of Dr Aziz, another generous intermediary whose desire to be understood runs aground on the limitations of his visitors.

But for all its intelligence, *Passage* never quite escapes a certain over-determination. It feels like a book begging to be on an exam syllabus, its themes mirroring one another with mathematical precision: the tomb is the brain, archaeological excavation becomes emotional excavation, and after a while you become more conscious of the novel's architecture than the people inhabiting it. I laughed at the scene where Kathleen says that Robert thinks Egypt is "bollocks" because it all too briefly punctures the novel's immaculate composure.

Thubron, 87, writes sentences to admire. Even a fleeting image – a tumour "like a pale slug, embedded in crimson" – lodges in the imagination. He is superb on desire, particularly the distinctly male tendency to mistake worship for love. There is a wonderful scene, late in the story, when Alan breaks down, weeping. It is one of the few moments when the novel's beautiful surface genuinely cracks – and it feels earned.

Perhaps this is the paradox of Thubron's fiction. The same patience, precision and control that have made him a superlative travel writer can leave his novels feeling almost too perfectly arranged. Like the operations Kathleen endures, every incision is expertly judged, every movement is neat. You can admire the skill at work, but still find yourself looking for a pulse.



MATTHEW THOMAS

Only connect Colin Thubron's novel is influenced by A Passage to India

A gossipy tale of mad toffs

Caroline Blackwood mined her family history for this wicked 1977 novel

Fiction

Great Granny Webster
by Caroline Blackwood
Virago £10.99 pp160

Laura Hackett

Caroline Blackwood's short, sharp novel *Great Granny Webster* was shortlisted for the Booker prize in 1977. If it had won, Blackwood might have gained the kind of literary fame that would have kept her pleasingly wicked books consistently in print.

But it was not to be. Philip Larkin, one of the judges, was dead set against it, believing it to be autobiography rather than fiction. More pressing, he threatened to jump out of the window if his favourite, *Staying On* by Paul Scott, didn't take home the trophy.

Despite the theatrics Larkin had a point: Blackwood's book draws heavily on her own fascinating biography. She was born in 1931 into an Anglo-Irish aristocratic family and grew up at the Clandeboye country estate in Northern Ireland, the crumbling pile that her father – Basil Sheridan Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, Marquess of Dufferin and Ava – inherited. Her mother, Maureen Constance Guinness, was one of the "Guinness Golden Girls". Wouldn't you write a novel about all that if you had the chance?

Great Granny Webster is a look back over three generations of a dysfunctional aristocratic family. Our narrator, a young woman we can reasonably take to be a stand-in for Blackwood, is sent to Hove to live with her Great Granny Webster for a few months as she recovers from an illness. But the house is dark, dank, gloomy, cold and churchlike. The fires are never lit. Life at Great Granny Webster's seems to be modelled on stoic suffering and a wartime spirit that never dies. At dinner, "tiny pats of margarine" arrive on an enormous silver butter dish.

> **An 'acid scent of old age' wafts from Great Granny Webster**

Great Granny Webster lives alone but for her one-eyed maidservant, Richards. When our young narrator first arrives, she is told, "Luncheon will be served at one-thirty," and feels that "this normal remark was uttered like a deadly threat". Every day Great Granny Webster is driven back and forth along the coast in a Rolls-Royce at a glacial pace, the window rolled down just a crack to let in some sea air. Then she retires to sit "bolt upright" in a high-backed Victorian wooden chair, staring "silently in front of her with woebegone and yellowy pouched eyes". She has all the colour and caricature of a Dickens character.

The narrator's brief but memorable stay with her great-grandmother prompts her to explore her family heritage. She visits her Aunt Lavinia, a more neurotic Linda Radlett, a bright young thing who is losing her sheen and her youth. Aunt Lavinia was, we hear, "reputed once to have gatecrashed a fashionable London party totally naked except for a sanitary towel". Perpetually unmarried, she makes a living of sorts from her many ex-lovers, who can be

BARON/GETTY IMAGES

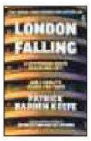
The Sunday Times Bestsellers

Tell me, O Muse, of the man who took nearly three millennia to enter the bestseller charts. Homer, thanks to Christopher Nolan's cinematic adaptation of *The Odyssey*, has his first chart listing in The Sunday Times.

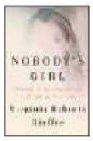
It is also a good week for Rebecca Perry. Her debut, *May We Feed the King*, burst into the charts after winning the Waterstones debut fiction prize. On Tuesday it was also longlisted for the 2026 Booker prize.

The lists are prepared by and the data is supplied by (and copyrighted to) NielsenIQ BookData, and are taken from the NielsenIQ BookScan Total Consumer Market for the week ending 25/07/26. Figures shown are sales for the seven-day period.

General hardbacks

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	 **London Falling** Patrick Radden Keefe (Picador £22) The mystery behind a teenager's deadly fall from a luxury apartment building *(3,735)*	1	17
2	**Lost Until Love** Olivia Bowen (Blink £20) The *Love Island* TV star on her experiences during and after the show *(1,445)*	16	1
3	**Regime Change** Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan (Simon & Schuster £28) The inside story of the first year of Donald Trump's second presidency *(1,155)*	2	5
4	**The Land and Its People** David Sedaris (Abacus £20) Essays on what it means to be a traveller, brother, friend and carer *(1,030)*	3	4
5	**The Let Them Theory** Mel Robbins (Hay House £22.99) Stop wasting your time and energy on the things that you can't control *(980)*	10	73
6	**The Book of Birds** Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris (Hamish Hamilton £35) An illustrated, lyrical celebration of birdlife in Britain *(935)*	5	12
7	**To the Women** Donna Ashworth (Black & White £12.99) A poetry collection celebrating the beauty, strength and joy of being a woman *(845)*	6	24
8	**The Little Things in Life** Catherine Hapka and Mike Wall (Studio £14.99) Illustrated mindful moments and affirmations from Disney's Winnie the Pooh *(835)*	8	15
9	**Always Remember** Charlie Mackesy (Ebury £22) More life wisdom from the author of *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse (815)*	7	35
10	**Don't Believe Everything You Think** Joseph Nguyen (Authors Equity £16.99) How to overcome anxiety and self-doubt *(695)*	14	4

General paperbacks

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	 **Nobody's Girl** Virginia Roberts Giuffre (Penguin £10.99) The author's account of her abuse by Jeffrey Epstein and his associates *(3,435)*	5	2
2	**Mother Mary Comes to Me** Arundhati Roy (Penguin £12.99) How Roy became who she is, shaped largely by her relationship with her mother *(3,315)*	1	6
3	**Careless People** Sarah Wynn-Williams (Pan £10.99) The author's experiences working at the heart of Facebook *(2,830)*	2	20
4	**A Mind of My Own** Kathy Burke (Gallery £10.99) The comedian and actress on doing things her own way from childhood to now *(2,500)*	4	8
5	**The Courage to Be Disliked** Ichiro Kishimi and Fumitake Koga (Allen & Unwin £12.99) A philosopher and a student discuss lasting happiness *(2,420)*	3	87
6	**The Psychology of Money** Morgan Housel (Harriman House £16.99) Essays examining the strange ways people think about money *(1,795)*	8	74
7	**Diddly Squat: The Farmer's Dog** Jeremy Clarkson (Penguin £10.99) The fifth volume of exploits, antics and missteps at Diddly Squat Farm *(1,660)*	7	10
8	**Atomic Habits** James Clear (Random House Business £18.99) The minuscule changes that can result in life-altering outcomes *(1,655)*	6	242
9	**Head North** Andy Burnham and Steve Rotheram (Trapeze £10.99) Alongside the Liverpool mayor, the new prime minister outlines his plan for Britain *(1,580)*	18	1
10	**Raising Hare** Chloe Dalton (Canongate £10.99) How an unlikely friendship with a hare transformed the author's life *(1,470)*	10	58

High life Caroline Blackwood was the daughter of a marquess and a Guinness Golden Girl

called on to send over cash injections when the gifts of her current lover do not suffice.

But our narrator is shocked to hear that Aunt Lavinia is being detained in hospital for having attempted suicide. "There's something unexpectedly ghastly about finding oneself in a bath full of gore and melting soap," says Aunt Lavinia, who is finding hospital life unbearable. "If they want to drive a person like me to her death they couldn't be setting about it more successfully. How can one be expected to regain one's wish to live when the brutes make it impossible for one to have a lipstick or do one's hair?"

After complaining about not having access to a comb or a telephone, Aunt Lavinia also reveals that her doctor attempted to rape her, a story delivered in the form of a joke. "There he was, pointlessly humping and pumping away at the surface of my hospital blanket." The eruption into the narrative of suicide and rape, all delivered with the same lightness of tone, is typical of Blackwood's gloriously dark imagination. We take one step closer to the heart of darkness in the third section, which focuses on the narrator's mentally unstable grandmother, who lived in Dunmartin Hall, an almost inhabitable country pile (and a clear reference to Clandeboye).

There is no plot as such in *Great Granny Webster*. Reading it is more akin to gleaning family gossip from a superlatively interesting dinner party guest. It is wickedly amusing and full of images that linger in the mind, from the "fierce armies of stinging nettles" encroaching on the Dunmartin driveway to the "acid scent of... old age" that wafts from Great Granny Webster.

The gap at its heart is, of course, the narrator herself, of whom we learn very little. Will she be able to escape what we might kindly call the eccentricity – or severely call madness – that pulses through her family tree?

The real Caroline Blackwood – who also wrote *The Fate of Mary Rose*, a novel featuring a dreadful husband – was married three times: to the painter Lucian Freud (she is *Girl in Bed, 1952*), to the composer Israel Citkowitz, and to the poet Robert Lowell, who described her as "a mermaid who dines upon the bones of her winded lovers".

This taut, entertaining and quite brutal novel, reissued for a new generation, proves that she no longer deserves to remain in any of their shadows.

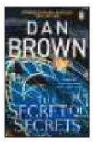
BUY FROM OUR ONLINE BOOKSHOP

All titles reviewed can be bought at timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount for Times+ members

Fiction hardbacks

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	**Yesteryear** Caro Claire Burke (4th Estate £16.99) A social media star showcasing her traditional lifestyle wakes up in an altered reality *(6,200)*	2	16
2	**Land** Maggie O'Farrell (Tinder £25) In 1865 a father and son work on a project to map the whole of Ireland *(2,760)*	6	8
3	**Getting Away with Murder** Shari Lapena (Bantam £20) A couple facing financial trouble plan the murder of a wealthy family member *(2,610)*	3	2
4	**It Could Have Been Her** Lisa Jewell (Century £22) A divorcee seeks to uncover the secrets of a house she first visited years ago *(2,445)*	7	4
5	**May We Feed the King** Rebecca Perry (Granta £14.99) A curator becomes fascinated by the past reign of an almost forgotten king *(2,375)*	—	1
6	**The Things We Never Say** Elizabeth Strout (Viking £18.99) A secret threatens to upend the life of a discontented history teacher *(1,970)*	9	12
7	**Prince of Swords** Elise Kova (Hodderscape £22) In hiding, a secretive order may be Clara's salvation; sequel to *Arcana Academy (1,945)*	—	1
8	**The Odyssey** Homer (Penguin Classics £18.99) Greek hero Odysseus' tumultuous journey home to Ithaca after the Trojan war *(1,895)*	—	1
9	**Duskbound** Bree Grenwich and Parker Lennox (Penguin £20) Fia faces a choice that could mean betraying those dearest to her; sequel to *Riftborne (1,690)*	1	2
10	**The Tapestry of Fate** Shannon Chakraborty (HarperVoyager £18.99) Sequel to *The Adventures of Amina al-Sirafi (1,590)*	—	1

Fiction paperbacks

		Last week	Weeks in top 10
1	 **The Secret of Secrets** Dan Brown (Penguin £9.99) While in Prague, the symbologist Robert Langdon's lover Katherine disappears *(17,965)*	1	4
2	**The Correspondent** Virginia Evans (Penguin £9.99) A letter-writing habit forces Sybil Van Antwerp to confront a painful time *(15,075)*	2	7
3	**It's Not What You Think** Clare Mackintosh (HarperCollins £9.99) Expecting to catch her husband cheating, his wife finds him dead instead *(13,265)*	5	2
4	**The Family Friend** Claire Douglas (Penguin £9.99) A woman discovers a dark history behind the country house that she has inherited *(12,830)*	3	4
5	**My Husband's Wife** Alice Feeney (Pan £9.99) An artist returns home to find an eerily similar woman claiming her life as her own *(10,600)*	4	4
6	**Nash Falls** David Baldacci (Pan £9.99) A businessman's perfect life is disrupted when the FBI arrives with a job for him *(8,830)*	11	1
7	**The Names** Florence Knapp (Phoenix £10.99) Three versions of a life unfold after a mother hesitates when naming her baby *(8,705)*	7	18
8	**So, I Met This Guy...** Alexandra Potter (Pan £9.99) A woman teams up with a reporter after a man steals her life savings *(7,790)*	12	2
9	**Boleyn Traitor** Philippa Gregory (HarperCollins £9.99) A reimagining of the life of Anne Boleyn's sister-in-law *(7,725)*	6	4
10	**The Weekend** TM Logan (Zaffre £9.99) Six friends find a bag of money abandoned in a cave in the Yorkshire Dales *(7,465)*	—	1

Manuals

1 Last week 7 Weeks in top 10 2
KPop Demon Hunters: The Official Deluxe Colouring Book Random House Worlds (Penguin £9.99) Colour characters and scenes from the movie *(3,925)*

2 Last week 2 Weeks in top 10 6
Murdoku M Garand (Penguin £16.99) Mini murder mystery puzzles combining games like sudoku and logic problems *(3,720)*

3 Last week 3 Weeks in top 10 71
Cozy Corner Coco Wyo (Penguin £7.99) A heartwarming bakery, a reading alcove, a cosy kitchen and more to colour in *(3,365)*

4 Last week 4 Weeks in top 10 23
Cozy Days Coco Wyo (Penguin £7.99) More hand-drawn illustrations to colour in; from the group of artists and colourists Coco Wyo *(3,175)*

5 Last week 5 Weeks in top 10 40
Girl Moments Coco Wyo (Penguin £7.99) Colouring book for adults and children featuring scenes of familiar daily activities *(3,020)*

Travel

Geography of Heaven
Travels to the Hereafter
by Rory MacLean
Abacus £22 pp336

Ceci Browning

After the death of his wife a travel writer embarks on an unusual quest — to find where her eternal soul might have gone

Eat, Pray, Love for middle-aged men

When the travel writer Rory MacLean's wife died he reacted exactly the way you would expect from someone who globe-trots for a living. After saying goodbye to Katrin, who died from cancer in 2021 at the age of 55, he felt a calling to visit the various places where her eternal soul might have ended up.

"I set out to find where she had gone," he writes. "I simply could not imagine any other way to bear the pain." The obstacle to that plan? Heaven has no obvious geographical location. "How could I reach somewhere that lies beyond the senses?" he asks. "There are no overnight buses to the Hereafter."

There may not be buses to the afterlife, but there have, historically, been maps. Ancient Egyptian cartographers depicted the Field of Reeds, aka Paradise, as lying beneath their feet or drifting over their heads. Swathes of Norsemen once believed that it could be accessed via the Icelandic volcano Helgafell or the Swedish site of Gotavi. Mayan civilisation pointed to sinkholes and caves as entrances to the subterranean land of the dead.

These are admittedly not as useful as OS co-ordinates but, hopeful of a reunion, MacLean is nevertheless determined "to trace the route taken by those who had passed on before her. Exit at the Rapture Field. Turn right on to Resurrection Highway. Wait for the lights at the corner of Faith and Truth."

First on MacLean's celestial tour is Beit El (which translates as the "House of God") in the hills north of Jerusalem. Dodging IDF patrols, he drags a borrowed sunlounger up to the flat table of "Jacob's Rock", where, according to the Bible, Jacob dreamt of a ladder up to Heaven, with angels climbing up and down. It is "barren but for a brushing of gorse, thorny burnet and stunted wormwood oak".

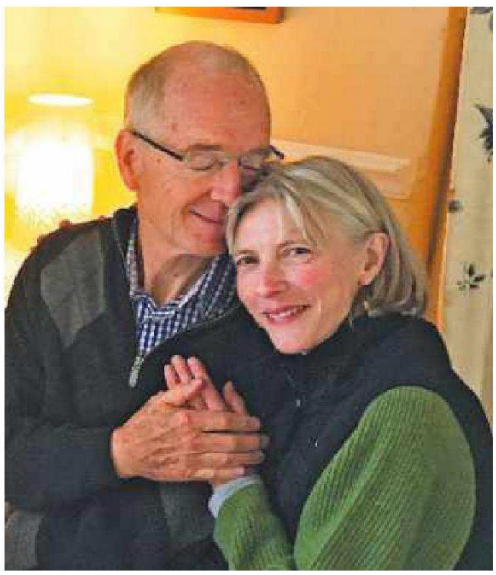
He spends a very chilly night staring up at the sky, "waiting for the place to touch me as it had touched Jacob". But after the brief interruption of distant gunshots, he simply falls asleep. No Katrin to be found. Over the following days he tries to feel her presence at the Western Wall, Temple Mount and the Kfar Shaul Mental Health Center, where a few "tonto tourists" suffering panic attacks and hallucinations are admitted each week.

The next stop on MacLean's mission to track down the real-life location of Heaven's pearly gates is Glastonbury Tor, which, according to folklore, was visited by Jesus and later became the site of the earliest Christian church in England. "Here the holy could not be stopped from breaking through."

MacLean was married to Katrin for 32 years, during which time the pair took countless trips side by side. This time his companions were a former cocaine addict, an osteopath, a chef and "a handful of flaky Londoners". The group meditate and recite mantras for hours, hoping to experience something divine. At this stage MacLean retains some healthy scepticism. "I reasoned that my time would be more usefully spent at home mowing the lawn."

Later, in southern India, MacLean heads to an ashram to receive spiritual guidance from an impressive celebrity guru "flanked by bare-chested bodyguards". Rather than a place of crumbling walls and lost souls, he discovers "a buzzing spiritual theme park" with "chrome golf carts" and "manicured gardens". The retreat is as woo-woo as expected, though: mass swaying, chanting, sitting cross-legged alongside thousands of God-fearing people making retching sounds as they expel whole lifetimes of anger from their body. "I watched in wide-mouthed wonder as a raving euphoria took possession of them."

Pathway to Paradise Glastonbury Tor. Below: Rory MacLean and his wife, Katrin



The list of sites MacLean visits (and the book) is long. It includes a Japanese burial ground in north London, a monk-filled crematorium in Bhutan, a Vipassana retreat in Suffolk and New York's impressive Zoroastrian temple. He ventures into the cloud too, to explore the digital afterlife – so-called "grief tech" – including an app called You, Only Virtual, which promises to "maintain your bond for ever" by creating a virtual version of a person that "can be seamlessly introduced into existing text, phone and video communication channels – enabling an uninterrupted connection between loved ones, even after death". Frightening.

For a travel book it's pretty light on travel and heavy on scripture, despite MacLean's early admission that "I was no churchgoer, my faith wishy-washy and ill-defined". As well as summing up the beliefs of Spartans and Trojans, the Zhou dynasty, indigenous Australians and Vikings, among other groups, MacLean gives hefty RE-lesson explanations of the afterlife according to each of the main religions. "I hadn't set out to contemplate God," he writes. "He just kept popping up, so to speak."

Does MacLean find Katrin? No – which is not a spoiler,

GETTY IMAGES; RORY MACLEAN

> He meditates at Glastonbury Tor with a former cocaine addict and a handful of flaky Londoners

because she is, after all, dead. There are glimmers of her ghostly presence, but really the closest he comes to anything concrete is the feeling of a weight on him and "a luminosity as if lit by starlight" during a feverish ayahuasca ceremony in the Amazon rainforest, as well as a brief "embrace" while brushing his teeth in South Africa. "Certainly there's a lamentable lack of customer feedback on Heaven's existence," he says in his own defence. "But being unseen doesn't mean nonexistence."

The trip seems to help MacLean to cope with his grief, at the very least, which makes for a welcome, albeit lacklustre, conclusion. "In my solitude I had found a sense of companionship with Katrin as well as myself," he writes. "I came anew to an ageless way of knowing the world."

I think MacLean intended *Geography of Heaven* to be a timeless tale of romantic pilgrimage. But combined with the intermittent addresses to his wife ("Do you see what I see, my love?") and the lavish food descriptions (fig baklava and potato kugel in Jerusalem, lamb dhansak and coconut chutney fish in New York, spicy bean stew in Bhutan) this book is perhaps better summed up as *Eat, Pray, Love* for middle-aged men.

BUY FROM OUR ONLINE BOOKSHOP

All titles reviewed can be bought at timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount for Times+ members

Dead, alive and underrated

The writer **Ben Okri** on taking on the challenge of Don Quixote, and the unexpected surprises in a Booker winner

Ben Okri was born in Nigeria in 1959 and in his teens started writing poetry. He moved to Britain in 1978 to study at Essex University. His first novel, *Flowers and Shadows*, was published in 1980. Numerous books — novels, short stories, poetry and essay collections — have followed, but he is still best known for *The Famished Road*, which won the Booker prize in 1991. He was knighted in 2023 for services to literature.

What is your favourite book by a dead author?

Although I had heard of *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes since I was a child, I never got around to reading it till I was 24. It is long, in two parts. Long novels need a steady, long-term habit of reading to overcome them. At the time I was writing and presenting a BBC programme broadcast to Africa so I read it on my journey to and from work. The novel is the story of a man who has read works of adventure and chivalry throughout his life. Then in his fifties he decides he wants to live adventures, not just read about them. Published between 1605 and 1615, it is a fountain from which the modern novel emerged. To read it is strange: it seems to contain the history of the novel in its fertile pages. But most powerful of all is the emotional punch it packs when you get to the end. A moving and fascinating novel.

What is your favourite book by a living author?

I'd held myself back from reading *Disgrace* by JM Coetzee, which won the Booker in 1999, for many years because of the racial political heat surrounding it. I wanted to read it as a novel, a work of art, not as the latest communiqué on the explosive issues of racial and sexual tensions in post-apartheid South Africa. And I found it a measured, frank, truthful and awkward tale of a man — a white South African professor of English — caught in the twists and turns of changing times. What I marvelled about more than anything was its calm sensibility in the midst of the storm. Among the many quiet splendours of the text is a curious restraint. The man who is making a quiet play for the professor's daughter's land and hand is a figure we meet early in the text. Yet it is not till much later that he is revealed to be black. I wonder whether it was a conscious choice on Coetzee's part or a function of the narration. This one detail changed the way I saw the protagonist and made the novel ambiguous and strangely moving.

What is your favourite book by an underrated author?

William Golding's 1955 novel, *The Inheritors*, ought to be better known than it is. Without breaking down language in any experimental way, without recourse to Joyceisms, he manages to convey an atmosphere that is utterly alien. He enters the mind and mood of our ancient ancestors. This is a novel set far in the past, among Neanderthals, and yet has a curious resonance with our times. Themes of power, belonging and identity are as true then as now. While most have read or at least heard of *Lord of the Flies*, not many have encountered *The Inheritors*. And yet it is the greater achievement and the one that gave the foundation for his Nobel prize. More than the writing, which is supple, solid and true, it is the intuition of the novel that strikes me more deeply. With every new archaeological discovery about our ancestors, Golding is proved more right. He intuited that Neanderthals were not primitive, that they had a sense of beauty and even a strong spiritual impulse. His novel not only illuminates the distant past but, in its double reflection, shines a light on our contemporary malaise and need for something higher.

> William Golding intuited that Neanderthals had a sense of beauty

Waking the Warriors by Ben Okri (Head of Zeus £18.99) is out now

ILLUSTRATION BY NINA KRAUSE; DAVID PARRY/SHUTTERSTOCK

PAPERBACKS OF THE WEEK

A Truce That Is Not Peace
by Miriam Toews
4th Estate £10.99 pp192

Miriam Toews is a prolific Canadian novelist — her 2018 novel *Women Talking* was turned into a film starring Claire Foy. Her memoir, like her novels, is dark and funny. Her parents were Mennonites and she grew up inside an austere community where women were forbidden to speak in church, leaving when she was a teenager. She writes about some terrible episodes in her life, including the suicides of her gentle father and her older sister. But the book doesn't endlessly dwell in the past. We follow Toews now as a doting grandmother sharing her Toronto home with four generations.
Johanna Thomas-Corr

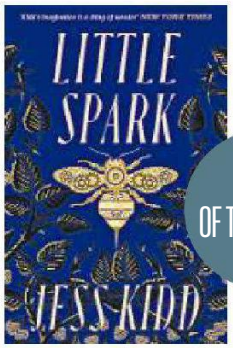
The Treasures
by Harriet Evans
Penguin £9.99 pp448

Alice and Tom are connected, although they don't know it yet. Alice is growing up in a small town on the Hudson River, near New York, where aged 16, she witnesses a grisly death. The young people of the town are discovering counterculture as the 1950s give way to the 1960s. Meanwhile in Britain, Tom is taken from his happy but impoverished home with his father in rural Scotland to live with his late mother's sister. Soon, in an attempt to unravel family secrets, Tom crosses to America, where he meets Alice. This enjoyable family saga, the first in a planned trilogy, comes with some modern twists. ***Antonia Senior***

Sparks fly in a fantastical late-Victorian mansion

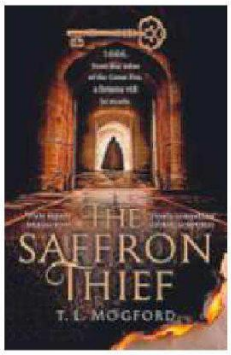
HISTORICAL FICTION ROUND-UP

Nick Rennison

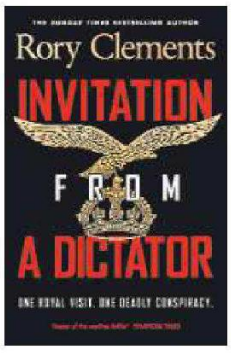


PICK OF THE MONTH

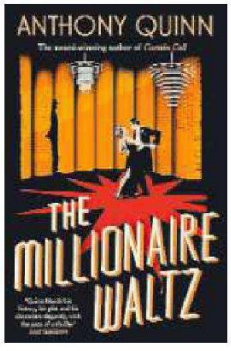
Little Spark *by Jess Kidd*
Canongate £18.99 pp352
Few contemporary writers combine the historical with the fantastical with as much panache as Jess Kidd. Her originality and offbeat imagination are once more on display in her latest novel. Its central character, a young woman named Bodkin Bell, is literally an electrifying personality, capable of emitting electric charge from her body. In late Victorian England, she tours the country as a freakish entertainment until a disaster lands her in prison. There she catches the eye of Lady Haseley, who uses her influence to have Bodkin transferred to Point Mote, her isolated family mansion in the Kent marshes. Bodkin is now to work with Lady Haseley's eccentric nephew on the construction of the automata for which the family is famous. As Bodkin learns more about why she has been brought to Point Mote and what mysteries lurk there, Kidd unfolds a narrative that is as unusual as it is entertaining.



The Saffron Thief
by TL Mogford
HarperCollins £18.99 pp336
In the wake of the Great Fire of London, the legal clerk Fabian Smith faces disaster. His father has died in the conflagration and his brother has fallen prey to a conman. Fabian must rescue the family fortune before their house is lost and his mother and sister are forced into prostitution. When he learns that saffron fetches the same price as gold he devises a plan. He will travel to Saffron Walden and steal enough saffron from the year's harvest to save his loved ones from destitution and worse. Joining the household of a leading saffron dealer, he is plunged into a maelstrom of deceit and treachery in which friend sometimes seems indistinguishable from foe. A little hurried in its denouement, as if TL Mogford suddenly realised he had many loose ends to tie up, this is nonetheless an enjoyable historical thriller.



Invitation from a Dictator
by Rory Clements
Viking £16.99 pp400
A significant number of crime thrillers set in Germany in the 1930s feature decent men, usually members of the police, struggling to maintain their morality in increasingly immoral times. The undisputed master of this intriguing mini-genre was Philip Kerr, the creator of the Berlin detective Bernie Gunther, but Rory Clements has ventured into the territory with his series involving the detective Sebastian Wolff and is proving a worthy successor. In the third of the series, Wolff is seconded to protect the Duke and Duchess of Windsor on their controversial tour of Germany and is forced to confront the possibility that his former wife is part of a communist plot to assassinate the Third Reich's former royal visitor.



The Millionaire Waltz
by Anthony Quinn
Abacus £22 pp416
Edie Greenlaw, a young woman from an upper-class English family, is eager to pursue a career in the theatre. She is also engaged to the handsome, gentlemanly David, whom she has known for years. The period is the 1920s and restrictions on women of her class are easing but can still seem burdensome. Some people she knows still disapprove of her stage ambitions and her wish to postpone marriage until she has fulfilled them. Further complications arise when she is reintroduced to David's cousin, Chris, who is newly returned from France and an unsuccessful marriage, and she begins to realise how strongly she is attracted to him. At the same time, her plan to help a gay friend, the target of a violent blackmailer, threatens to go badly wrong. As with all of Anthony Quinn's historical fiction, *The Millionaire Waltz* is cleverly plotted, filled with credible characters and bolstered by his command of period detail.

BUY FROM OUR ONLINE BOOKSHOP

All titles reviewed can be bought at timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount for Times+ members

SEVEN DAY LISTINGS
AUGUST 2-8

TV & Radio

PICK OF THE WEEK

RICHARD E GRANT'S VERY MODERN ODYSSEY

Today, C4, 8pm

Adding to the wine-dark sea of *Odyssey* discourse in the post-Christopher Nolan age, Richard E Grant throws himself into this epic travelogue, following the path of Odysseus' long voyage around Europe, north Africa and Asia Minor.

Armoured in a fetching tan leather jacket, *right*, he begins his journey in the Maltese archipelago, long believed to have been the location of the nymph Calypso's love cave, the place where Odysseus stayed for seven years while on his way back to Penelope. He also visits a megalithic stone temple allegedly built by giants, before heading to Turkey to visit the "real Troy".

It seems abundantly clear that Grant took on this job so he could grandly declaim passages of Homer's poem – sometimes in authentic ancient costuming – but the actor also brings a contagious enthusiasm to his exploration of modern Malta, particularly enjoying a Michelin-starred meal of pigeon and amberjack.

Next stop: Sicily.

Victoria Segal

ARTS CHOICE

Voices of the Valleys (Wed, 8pm, Sky Arts/Now)
This three-part documentary follows three Welsh male voice choirs and their conductors as they prepare for a key event in their choral calendar. The series explores the importance of this musical tradition as a source of great pride among members of communities across Wales with their roots in heavy industries such as coalmining.

ON DEMAND CHOICE

The Shards (from Thu, Disney+)
The super-producer Ryan Murphy presents a dark and dangerous adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis's teenage coming-of-age erotic thriller set in 1980s Los Angeles. The semi-autobiographical story follows 17-year old Ellis (Igby Rigney, *right*) in his final year at Buckley prep school.

SPORT CHOICE

Who Do You Think You Are? (Thu, BBC1, 9pm)
The 2024 Olympic silver medal-winning heptathlete and double world champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson is one of our top athletes. Away from the stadiums, she traces her late father's Bahamian ancestry from Liverpool to the Bahamas and Miami.
Tim Glanfield

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
9.00 News; Weather Headlines.
10.00 Prayer And Reflection (R)
10.30 Pilgrimage — The Road Through North Wales (R)
11.30 Money For Nothing (R)
12.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.15 Songs Of Praise The deep significance of mountains in the Bible.
1.50 Escape To The Country (R)
2.15 FILM: Puss In Boots With the voice of Antonio Banderas. The feline goes on a quest for a golden goose. Fun. (2011, U)
3.35 The Mating Game (R)
4.35 Homes Under The Hammer Auctions. (R)
5.35 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Celebrity Escape To The Country TV host Angellica Bell and her husband, Michael Underwood, look for a home in rural Devon. (R)
7.00 Countryfile The first of four episodes in which Adam Henson meets a new generation of farmers navigating the challenges and opportunities of producing our food, beginning in North Wales.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow At Brodie Castle in Morayshire, Fiona Bruce meets a Highland Games commentator who has brought items including a brooch presented by Queen Victoria. (R)
9.00 The Rapture Gabs and Dick uncover evidence that Leonard is hiding something; floods in India match Bethany's drawings; and Gabs pushes her suspicions into the open. (3/5)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.30 FILM: The Impossible Stars Naomi Watts and Ewan McGregor. A family spending Christmas in Thailand are separated in the 2004 tsunami and struggle to find each other in the ensuing chaos. Visceral drama. (2012, 12)
12.10 Who Do You Think You Are? Harriet Walter. (R)
1.15-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 10.30 Icons Of Football. **11.30** Sportscene. **12.15** FILM: The Impossible. **2.00** News.

BBC 2

6.40 A To Z Of TV Gardening (R)
7.25 Glorious Gardens From Above Staffordshire. (R)
8.10 Countryfile The final stop on Anita Rani's east coast road trip is Orford Ness. (R)
9.05 Best Of Weatherman Walking Table Mountain.
9.35 Beechgrove Garden (R)
10.05 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites Series highlights.
11.35 Indian Food Made Easy Healthy Indian meals, including stuffed dhosas. (R) **12.05 Indian Food Made Easy** A firefighter is taught to cook a curry. (R)
12.35 CHOICE Loch Ness Stars Ted Danson and Joely Richardson. An American scientist is sent to Scotland to prove that the Loch Ness monster does not exist, to the outrage of the locals. (1996, PG; see Film choice)
2.15 The Hundred: MI London Women v Manchester Super Giants Women. Live coverage of the match from the Oval. **6.00 The Hundred:** MI London Men v Manchester Super Giants Men. Live coverage of the match from the Oval.
9.30 Live At The Apollo Nabil Abdulrashid hosts the show from London's Hammersmith Apollo, introducing stand-up routines by fellow comedians Jake Lambert and Rachel Fairburn. (R)
10.00 CHOICE Shakespeare In Love Stars Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow, Judi Dench and Ben Affleck. Falling in love cures the Bard's writer's block and inspires him to pen the most famous love story of all time. (1998, 15; see Film choice)
11.55 Golf — Women's Open Highlights Action from the fourth and final day of the Major, held at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire.
12.55 Ann Droid Linda drags Sue to scatter ashes by the sea, which sparks a trip to a dodgy funfair where a rollercoaster ride goes wrong. (Signed, R)
1.25-2.20 The Devil In The Family — The Fall Of Ruby Franke (Signed, R)

ITV 1

6.00 James Martin's American Adventure Sonoma. (R)
7.00 James Martin's Saturday Morning Chat show. (R)
9.25 News; Weather Reports.
9.30 Love Your Weekend (R)
11.30 Fern Britton — Inside The Vet's A golden retriever with a lump on its eyelid.
12.30 Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy Foraging in Umbria. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.10 Force Of Nature (R)
2.10 FILM: The Man With The Golden Gun Stars Roger Moore and Christopher Lee. James Bond is drawn into a battle of wits. Decent adventure. (1974, PG)
4.35 The Chase Quiz show. (R)
5.35 The Chase Around The World The teams land in Lisbon in order to take on the Dark Destroyer and the Sinnerman. (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
6.45 Regional News Headlines.
7.00 Force Of Nature Shifting rains test three mothers as floods transform habitats, destroy homes, and bring perilous opportunity. (2/6)
8.00 CHOICE Van Der Valk New run of the crime drama, with Marc Warren. After a whistleblower is murdered, the team must ensure the second testifies to take down a criminal empire. (Series 4, ep 1; see Critics' choice)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.15 FILM: Jack Reacher — Never Go Back Stars Tom Cruise. The vigilante tries to save an army major who has been framed for murder. Slick action sequel. (2016, 12)
12.25 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 Motorsport UK (R)
3.50 Unwind Daily relaxation.
5.05-6.00 Dickinson's Real Deal From Telford. (R)

Bill Paterson (BBC4, 10pm)

Channel 4

6.20 Cheers Comedy. (R)
7.15 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
8.30 Frasier Sitcom. (R)
10.00 Sunday Brunch With John Hannah, Matt Forde, Ruthie Henshall, Laura Smyth and Jen Brister.
1.00 Jamie Cooks The Mediterranean Recipes. (R)
2.00 Our Farm Next Door — Amanda, Clive And Kids As Christmas looms, Amanda and the family face re-roofing Anty John's. (R)
3.05 Britain's Favourite Railway Stations Glasgow Central. (Last in series, R)
4.05 Love It Or List It — Brilliant Builds (R)
4.35 FILM: Sister Act Stars Whoopi Goldberg. A nightclub singer is sent to live in a convent for her own protection. Hits the right note. (1992, PG)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Gogglebox Highlights from series 27.
8.00 CHOICE Richard E Grant's Very Modern Odyssey New series. The actor retraces the classic 20-year route of Odysseus in Homer's Greek classic The Odyssey, beginning in Malta. (See Pick of the week)
9.00 The Piano Claudia Winkleman and Mika are joined at London Bridge Station by Jools Holland, as a 10-year-old gets the whole station singing.
10.05 FILM: Erin Brockovich Stars Julia Roberts and Albert Finney. A single mother working at a law firm investigates a shady corporation. Brilliant fact-based drama. (2000, 15)
12.30 Ramy Maysa thinks that it is time for Dena to settle down and marry. (S3, ep 5) **1.05 Ramy** Dena talks to a therapist and takes Maysa along to a group session.
1.40 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
2.35 Mr & Mrs '55 Remembered (R)
2.50 FILM: Mr & Mrs '55 Stars Madhubala. (1955, U, B/W; Hindi with subtitles)
5.20 Love It Or List It — Brilliant Builds (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown (R)

5

6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
9.00 Entertainment News
9.15 FILM: Rango With the voice of Johnny Depp. Animation. (2011, PG)
11.30 Commonwealth Games Highlights from day nine. (R)
12.30 Happy Campers — The Caravan Park (R)
1.30 Cruising With Susan Calman A cruise to Mexico via North America. (R)
2.30 Jane McDonald's Yorkshire — No Place Like Home The singer explores Yorkshire. (R)
4.00 UK's Strongest Man Live coverage of day two from Planet Ice Milton Keynes.
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 The 1970s Diet — Could It Work For You? Josie Gibson immerses herself in the food, drink and health culture of the 1970s to discover if the average diet could have something to teach modern eaters. (R)
8.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly Graeme Hall meets an 11-year-old beagle with an insatiable appetite and two cockapoos who will not stop barking — making their owner the talk of the town. (R)
9.00 CHOICE Inside The Four Seasons — Park Lane New series. The housekeeping manager tries to source horsehair pillows for a guest; and Julian at the concierge desk takes on a last-minute picnic-based mission. (See Critics' choice)
10.00 Commonwealth Games Highlights from the final day in Glasgow, with medals on the line in netball, judo, bowls and para bowls, and track cycling and para track cycling.
11.05 JFK Assassination — Inside The Trauma Room A reunion of doctors present at the hospital John F Kennedy was taken to after being shot. (R)
1.00 Teleshopping Goods. (R)
2.00 GPs — Behind Closed Doors Insights. (R)
2.50 Holiday Scams — Don't Get Caught Out (R)
3.40 Friends US sitcom. (R)
4.30 The Highland Vet (R)
5.20 Entertainment News
5.35-6.00 Children's Shows

Variations

BBC SCOTLAND 7.00 Reporting Scotland **7.15** Sportscene — Premiership Highlights **8.00** My Epic Camel Adventure **9.00** Paramedics On Scene **10.00** Still Game **10.30** Scot Squad **11.00** Cumming To The Cabaret! **11.45-12.00** Scotland's Most Remote Club Night **STV 6.00** James Martin's American Adventure **7.00** James Martin's Saturday Morning **9.25** News; Weather **9.30** Love Your Weekend **11.30** Fern Britton — Inside The Vet's **12.30** Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy **1.00** News; Weather **1.10** Force Of Nature **2.10** FILM: The Man With The Golden Gun **4.35** The Chase **5.35** The Chase Around The World **6.30** News; Weather **6.45** STV News; Weather **7.00** Force Of Nature **8.00** Van Der Valk **10.00** News; Weather **10.15** FILM: Jack Reacher — Never Go Back **12.25** Teleshopping **3.00** Motorsport UK **3.50** Unwind **5.05-6.00** Dickinson's Real Deal **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Caban Banana Gareth **6.05** Fferm Fach **6.20** Blwi **6.25** Parc Glan Gwil **6.40** Ein Byd Bach Ni **6.50** Ahoi! **7.05** Sam Tan **7.15** Awyr Iach **7.30** Blero Yn Mynd I Ocido **7.40** Byd Tad-Cu **7.50** Crawc A'i Ffrindiau **8.05** Annibendod **8.15** Mojo Swoptops **8.30** Dal Dy Ddannedd **8.50** Penblwyddi Cyw **9.00** Y Cosmos **10.00** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Events from the second day at the National Eisteddfod **6.40** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **6.50** Pobol Y Cwm Omnibws **8.00** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **9.30** Gemau'r Gymanwlad — Y Ras I Glasgow. Coverage of the closing ceremony **10.30-12.15** Sgorio

You say

Would it be possible for some of my licence fee to be spent on elocution lessons for commenta'ors? It appears that the letter 't' is falling into misuse. We live in the "twenties" not "twennies" and people go to "hospital" not "hospi'al", etc.
Tony Scofield

The Proms are back on the telly (hooray!). Likewise the ants-in-the-pants camera direction (boo!) jitterbugging us all over the shop. Very irritating. Tone it down please.
Mike Stewardson

Critics' choice

Van der Valk (ITV1, 8pm)
It has taken two years for the fourth series of *Van der Valk* to arrive on British screens after its international broadcast, but there's a classic quality to its crime fighting that ensures that it is far from time-sensitive. Tonight's story is an ageless tale of deep betrayal, family ties and good versus evil, as Marc Warren's detective Piet van der Valk investigates the murder of a key witness in an impending gangland trial. The OCG plotline lends a *Line of Duty*-style tension to the chase scenes and interrogations, while Anastasia Hille almost steals the show from Warren's striking poloneck as the crime matriarch Bibi Franklin, playing her as a fabulous splicing of Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren. Filmed on location in Amsterdam, it looks enchanting too – although it is a shame that the original show's *Eye Level* theme music only remains as a vestigial homage. *Victoria Segal*

Marc Warren returns as the Dutch detective Piet van der Valk

Tense spy thriller is back for season three

Lioness (Paramount+)
The second season of Taylor Sheridan's female-fronted CIA thriller rose above its hackneyed drugs cartel arc to deliver harrowing high-stakes entertainment. As "Joe", the CIA operative training female marines for deep-cover work, Zoe Saldana, *below*, proved chilling in her compartmentalised efficiency, while Nicole Kidman invested her "Basil Exposition" role of bureaucratic supervisor Kaitlyn Meade with a necessary cool authority. Season three, which launches today, promises more tense scenes of modern warfare – but Sheridan could think about dispensing with that wearying "female kidnap and torture" trope. *AM*

The Proms: Great Violinists (BBC4, 9pm)
There is a month of Proms season left, with the programme striving to appeal to everyone from prog fans to Bach obsessives. Tonight the violin aficionados have their needs met as Katie Derham introduces the proms debut of the 26-year-old violinist Sueye Park, the winner of last year's 13th International Jean Sibelius Violin Competition. Here she plays Sibelius's Violin Concerto in D Minor alongside the conductor John Storgards and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. It sits alongside more concerts from the Proms archives. The Bulgarian violinist Liya Petrova plays *The Lark Ascending* by Vaughan Williams at her 2025 Proms debut. That's followed by 2022 footage of Nicola Benedetti performing the second movement of Wynton Marsalis's *Fiddle Dance Suite*, a piece written especially for her. *VS*

Barrow — The Truth Behind the Grooming Lie (Sky Documentaries/Now, 9pm)
Ellie Williams was jailed for falsely claiming she had been trafficked and raped by an Asian grooming gang in Cumbria. BBC3's *Liar: The Fake Grooming Gang Scandal* retraced a police operation that went from investigating alleged sex crimes to charging her. This report asks if "the focus on proving one young woman a liar led to denial of a wider grooming problem. Was there truth behind the lies?"

Sueye Park (BBC4, 9pm)

Bill Paterson Remembers... The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil (BBC4, from 10pm)
The veteran actor recalls his roles in John McGrath's play for the 7:84 company, televised in 1974. It's a radical romp through Scotland's post-Culloden history, in which cheviots were the sheep that replaced crofters in the Highland Clearances, stags were killed for sport as landowners profited from hunting, and the riches from North Sea oil (topical again) went to outsiders in the 1970s boom.

Inside the Four Seasons — Park Lane (5, 9pm)
We have previously enjoyed "unprecedented access" to such London hotels as Claridge's, the Savoy and the Langham, as well as shorter visits to others. Now it's the turn of the Four Seasons iteration on Park Lane, where its big rival is the Dorchester. *John Dugdale*

Film choice

Loch Ness (BBC2, 12.35pm)
A hugely watchable family film in which the myth of Loch Ness is used to set up an irresistible tale of redemption. Ted Danson is an American scientist dispatched to the loch to carry out a search that will put to bed the idea of Nessie once and for all. As he becomes closer to his wary landlady (Joely Richardson) and her nine-year-old daughter, could there be a surprise in the offing? This is not a film about cute monsters. (1994)

Shakespeare in Love (BBC2, 10pm)
The Bard (Joseph Fiennes) is young, penniless and suffering from writer's block. His equally broke benefactor (Geoffrey Rush) has staked his theatre on Shakespeare's next play. Viola de Lesseps, a young aristocratic woman (Gwyneth Paltrow) posing as a man to win a role in the play, could be perfect to stir Will's creative juices. (1998)

Withnail & I (Film4, 11.40pm)
"We want the finest wines available to humanity, we want them here, and we want them now!" If ever the spirit of a film could be summed up in one line, it is this imperious demand from Richard E Grant's raddled "resting" actor Withnail. Paul McGann plays "I", an equally unemployed thespian who joins Withnail on an ill-fated holiday to the countryside. (1987)

On demand

● **RJ Decker (Disney+)**
The surreal Florida crime novels of Carl Hiaasen are having a TV renaissance. After 2024's Vince Vaughn vehicle *Bad Monkey*, we now have this easy-going Sunshine State procedural based on *Double Whammy*, Hiaasen's 1987 crime novel, and devised by the *Elementary* creator, Rob Doherty. Scott Speedman has a winning affability as the titular ex-con rebuilding his life as a private investigator, but the show's real charm lies in its female characters, especially Adelaide Clemens as Decker's ex-wife, Catherine Delacroix, a journalist, and Jaina Lee Ortiz, who plays his femme fatale partner in crime, Emi Ochoa.

● **Summer of 76 (BBC iPlayer)**
Fifty years ago Britain experienced one of the hottest summers on record. Heatwaves no longer seem quite as much fun any more. This two-part retrospective is something of a grab bag, bringing together a 2006 talking-heads chronicle of the 1976 heatwave's effect on British culture plus a documentary from the year itself about a working-class family, the Harrises, on a camping holiday in Scarborough. Search iPlayer and you will also find a 1976 *The World About Us* nature documentary about that year's ladybird invasion and the intense heat's impact on the countryside. *Andrew Male*

BBC 3

7.00pm EastEnders Ian could be facing his final day of freedom. **7.30 EastEnders** Sheila is left shaken. **8.00 EastEnders** Linda's head is turned. **8.30 EastEnders** Nicola attempts to make peace with Eve and Suki.
9.00 Are Billionaires Bad? The broadcaster Shabaz Asks ponders the super-rich.
9.50 Gaia — A Death On Dancing Ledge Looking into a mysterious death from 2017. **10.35 Gaia — A Death On Dancing Ledge** Uncovering a world of online grooming. **11.20 Gaia — A Death On Dancing Ledge** The inquest. (Last in series)
12.05 Kidnapped By My Mum
1.45 Top Gear Motoring.
2.45 Doctor Who (S9, ep 12)
3.45-3.55 Quiet Life Comedy.

BBC 4

7.00pm The Fairytale Castles Of King Ludwig II
8.00 Cairngorms A Year In The Wild A tour of Britain's largest national park.
9.00 CHOICE Great Violinists At The Proms Featuring Sueye Park, Liya Petrova and Nicola Benedetti. (See Critics' choice)
10.00 CHOICE Bill Paterson Remembers ... The Cheviot, The Stag And The Black, Black Oil (See Critics' choice)
10.15 The Cheviot, The Stag And The Black, Black Oil Documentary adaptation of John McGrath's play.
11.45 7:84 — Keep Right On?: Ex-S The fortunes of the 7:84 Theatre Company.
12.15 Munro — Mountain Man
1.15 As 7pm
2.15-3.15 As 8pm

ITV 2

5.00pm FILM: Johnny English Stars Rowan Atkinson and John Malkovich. (2003, PG; includes FYI Daily)
6.45 FILM: Miss Congeniality Stars Sandra Bullock and Michael Caine. (2000, 12; includes FYI Daily)
9.00 The Only Way Is Essex New run. Saff and Ella reopen old wounds when they clash over Freddie.
10.00 Family Guy Stewie is left home alone when the family go on a road trip. (S7, ep 4) **10.30 Family Guy** Stewie interferes with Brian and Jillian's relationship. (Series 6, ep 2) **11.05 Family Guy** Joe decides to get a leg transplant.
11.35-12.05 American Dad! Cartoon. (Series 16, ep 12)

ITV 3

6.00pm Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. A teacher keeps waking in the night, thinking she has an intruder, but her neighbours are unconvinced — until a local councillor is found dead in her garden. (Series 12, ep 7) **8.00 Midsomer Murders** Barnaby joins Causton's annual trip to Brighton when he becomes suspicious about the mayor's plans to buy up coastal land for holiday chalets.
10.00 Vera When a dock worker plunges from a multistorey car park, Vera investigates a work dispute over a young man's death and uncovers a life of secrets and lies. (Series 5, ep 4)
11.50-1.30 Wycliffe Pilot episode of the detective drama, with Jack Shepherd.

E4

6.00pm The Great Australian Bake Off The semi finalists take on patisserie week.
7.15 Cruising Paradise — Above And Below Deck Behind the scenes on Princess Cruises and Regent Seven Seas Cruises.
8.20 FILM: The Simpsons Movie With the voices of Dan Castellaneta, Julie Kavner and Nancy Cartwright. Springfield is faced with destruction after pollution caused by Homer provokes the wrath of the US government. Fast-paced fun. (2007, PG)
10.00 FILM: American Pie — The Wedding Stars Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan. (2003, 15)
11.55-1.00 Gogglebox Opinions.

U&Drama

5.55pm Home Fires Steph faces losing the farm.
6.55 Hetty Wainthropp Investigates The slueth disguises herself as a victim of domestic abuse to find out who is threatening the future of a women's refuge. (S2, ep 6)
8.05 Sister Boniface Mysteries A resident is poisoned resembling a murder years earlier, but the culprit for that crime is known to be in a psychiatric institution. (Series 2, ep 10)
9.05 Silent Witness Nikki investigates whether or not a plane crash killing a former US ambassador was sabotage. (S 23, ep 1)
11.20-12.20 New Tricks The squad re-examines the disappearance of an actress. (Series 6, ep 4)

Sky Arts

4.30pm Classic Artists: Cream.
7.00 Grand Ole Opry — Opry Live With Vince Gill, Patty Loveless and Dustin Lynch.
8.00 FILM: Murder By Decree Stars Christopher Plummer. Sherlock Holmes tries to put a stop to Jack the Ripper's murders, but finds the serial killer has friends in high places. Flabby mystery. (1978, 15)
10.20 Johnson & Knopfler's Music Legends Brian and Mark head to Miami to meet the musician and producer Nile Rodgers, who talks about his career.
11.20-12.40 Gary Moore — One Night In Dublin A 2005 concert by the blues guitarist, who is joined on stage by Brian Robertson, Scott Gorham and Eric Bell.

Sky One

6.00pm Animal Control Frank's beloved dog is taken away from him. (Series 4, ep 4) **6.30 Animal Control** Patel hosts a fundraising event.
7.00 The Simpsons Homer becomes a baseball team mascot. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** Bart enters a golf tournament. (R)
8.00 David Attenborough's Dragons And Damsels The world of dragonflies and damselflies. (R)
9.00 Micky Flanagan — If Ever We Needed It A stand-up show by the comedian. (R)
10.15 FILM: Rambo III Stars Sylvester Stallone. The Vietnam veteran heads for Afghanistan to rescue his old boss Colonel Trautman from prison. Over the top. (1988, 18; ends at **12.15**)

Sky Atlantic

5.00pm The White Lotus Tanya and Portia embark on a whirlwind excursion with Quentin and Jack. (Series 2, ep 5) **6.15 The White Lotus** Lucia helps the Di Grassos search for long-lost relatives. **7.30 The White Lotus** Albie asks Dominic for a karmic payment to help Lucia.
9.00 House Of The Dragon Rhaenyra and Daemon focus on how best to deal with Ormund. (S3, ep 6)
10.15 Gomorrah — The Origins In Naples in 1997, Pietro Savastano has dreams of following in the footsteps of local gangster Angelo. (1/6) **11.20-12.15 Gomorrah — The Origins** Angelo receives an invitation that could improve his situation. (Italian with subtitles)

TPTV

6.00pm FILM: The Bargee Stars Harry H Corbett. A womanising barge worker is forced into marriage when one of his many girlfriends gets pregnant. Patchy comedy. (1964, PG)
8.10 Look At Life Insights.
8.20 A Game Of Murder Mrs Lincoln's nephew wants the dog collar returned.
9.25 FILM: Chase A Crooked Shadow Stars Richard Todd. An heiress is menaced by a stranger claiming to be her brother, driving her to question her sanity as he claims the family legacy. Effective thriller. (1957, U, B/W)
11.10-12.50 The Best Of The Adventurers Highlights from the 1970s series.

Films

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE
4.15pm Mortal Kombat II (2026, 15) **6.15** Anaconda. Friends encounter a terrifying creature while remaking a movie they have been wanting to shoot since childhood. (2025, 12) **8.00** Normal. A temporary small-town law enforcer uncovers dark mysteries after a bank robbery. (2026, 15) **9.40** Heretic (2024, 15) **11.40-1.15** Primate (2025, 18)

SKY CINEMA THRILLER
5.45pm Captain Phillips. The captain of a cargo ship is taken hostage by pirates. (2013, 12) **8.00** Clear And Present Danger. A CIA analyst is caught in the Colombian drug trade. (1994, 12) **10.30-12.40** True Romance (1993, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS
5.50pm Notting Hill (1999, 15) **8.00** Singin' In The Rain. An actor tries to woo a starlet, to the chagrin of his regular on-screen love interest. (1952, U) **9.45** Arthur. A boozy millionaire playboy falls in love with a penniless shoplifter. (1981, 15) **11.25-1.10** Risky Business (1983, 15)

SKY CINEMA SELECT
5.40pm Despicable Me 3 (2017, U) **7.15** Playmobil — The Movie. When her brother disappears into a magical animated universe, Marla Brenner must go on a quest. (2019, U) **9.05** The Spongebob Movie. The plucky sea creature sets out to prove his boss Mr Krabs is innocent of stealing Neptune's crown. (2004, U) **10.35-12.15** The Angry Birds Movie. Animation. (2016, U)

SKY CINEMA DRAMA
5.45pm Erin Brockovich (2000, 15) **8.00** Wuthering Heights. Tragedy strikes when Heathcliff falls for Catherine Earnshaw, a woman from a wealthy family. (2026, 15) **10.20-1.40** The Brutalist (2025, 18)

FILM4
4.50pm The Call Of The Wild (2020, PG) **6.45** Independence Day — Resurgence. Two decades after the world was saved from an alien attack, a second invasion begins. (2016, 12) **9.00** Captain Phillips. The skipper of an American cargo ship is taken hostage by Somalian pirates. (2013, 12) **11.40-1.50 CHOICE** Withnail & I (1987, 15; see Film choice)

Entertainment

ITV4
4.45pm Sharpe **9.00** FILM: Time Bandits. Stars Craig Warnock and David Rappaport. Fantasy **11.25** The Summit Australia **12.45** Minder **1.40-2.35** Robin Of Sherwood

MORE4
5.55pm Come Dine With Me **6.25** Four In A Bed. Back-to-back editions **9.00** The Emergency Ward **10.00** 24 Hours In A&E **12.05** The Emergency Ward **1.00-3.10** 24 Hours In A&E

U&GOLD
5.40pm Red Dwarf **7.00** Gavin & Stacey **8.20** Dad's Army. An alert causes chaos **9.00** The Royle Family **10.20** The Fast Show **12.15** The Royle Family **1.35-3.25** Red Dwarf

SKY COMEDY
6.00pm The US Office **7.30** FILM: Chicken Run. With the voices of Mel Gibson and Julia Sawalha **9.00** Ellie Taylor — Palavering! Stand-up show by the comedian and actress. **10.00** Chris Ramsey — Live From London **11.00** Sam Jay — Salute Me Or Shoot Me **12.15** Lil Rel Howery — I Said It. Y'all Thinking It **1.30-4.00** I Love LA

5 STAR
6.00pm Police Interceptors **9.00** Trauma Room One **10.00** Surgeons — A Matter Of Life Or Death **11.00** A&E After Dark **12.00** The Limbs In The Loch — Killer On The Run **1.00** Text Me When You Get Home **1.55-2.45** Skin A&E

5 USA
5.10pm Columbo **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.55-3.50** NCIS: Los Angeles

SKY WITNESS
6.00pm Nothing To Declare **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **10.00** Irish Blood **11.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **12.00** FBI: Most Wanted **1.00** The Good Doctor **2.00-3.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

U&W
6.00pm Inside The Ambulance **8.00** Inside The Operating Theatre **10.00** Brit Cops Down Under **12.00** Stacey Dooley Sleeps Over **1.00-3.00** Hashtag Murder

COMEDY CENTRAL
6.00pm Mr Bean **7.55** The Best Of Mr Bean **9.00** FILM: Private Benjamin. Stars Goldie Hawn and Armand Assante. Comedy

11.10 Jimmy Carr's Am I The A**hole? **12.10** 8 Out Of 10 Cats. With Sarah Millican **1.50-2.20** Gods Of The Game

U&YESTERDAY
6.00pm Stanley Tucci — Searching For Italy **7.55** Bangers & Cash **8.55** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics **9.55** Canal Boat Diaries **12.55-1.55** Flipping Bangers

U&DAVE
5.40pm Would I Lie To You? **7.00** Border Force — America's Gatekeepers **8.00** Special Ops — Crime Squad UK **9.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **10.00** QI **10.40** Mock The Week **12.00** Live At The Apollo **2.00-3.00** QI XL

Factual

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6.00pm Air Crash Investigation **7.00** Hidden Beneath The Cities. In Seoul, workers uncover a chamber beneath a mall **8.00** Lost Treasures Of Ancient Greece **9.00** Egypt's Sun King — Secrets And Treasures **10.00** Pompeii — Out Of Time With Tom Hiddleston **11.00** Mysteries Of Ancient Medicine **12.00** Air Crash Investigation **1.00-3.00** Car SOS

5 Best sport on TV this week

1 Women's Open (Today, midday, Sky Sports Golf)
The final round of the 50th anniversary tournament from Royal Lytham & St Annes in Lancashire.

2 UCI Tour of Denmark (Today, 12.30pm, TNT Sports 1)
The fifth stage – 126km from Koge to Rodovre.

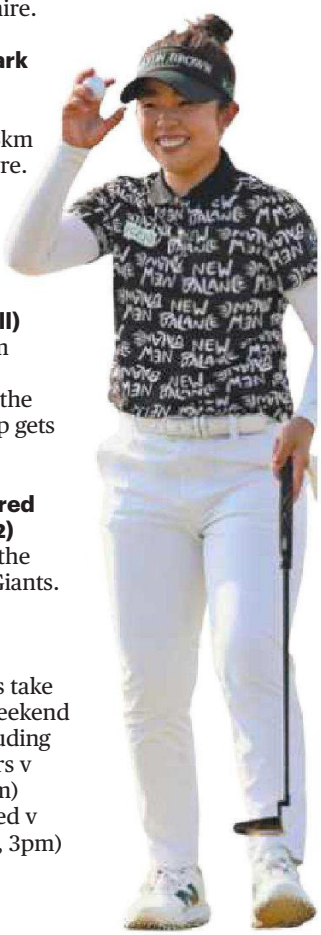
3 Hibernian v Motherwell (Today, ko 4.30pm, Sky Sports Football)
The Edinburgh team welcome the North Lanarkshire side as the Scottish Premiership gets into full swing.

4 Cricket: The Hundred (Today, 6pm, BBC2)
MI London take on the Manchester Super Giants.

5 Carabao Cup (Sky Sports+)
First-round matches take place across next weekend with highlights including Queens Park Rangers v Millwall (Sat, ko 2pm) and West Ham United v Portsmouth FC (Sat, 3pm)

Tim Glanfield

Japan occupied three of the final top five slots in 2025 — with Miyu Yamashita the victor



Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT
6.00am News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **10.00** News **11.00 LIVE** The Hundred **1.30 LIVE** Women's Golf. Open Championship **6.30 LIVE** The Hundred **9.00 LIVE** Tennis. The Washington DC Open women's and men's finals **12.00 LIVE** Tennis **4.00-6.00** News

TNT SPORTS 1
7.00am British Superbikes **7.30** SailGP — On The Edge **8.00** World Rally Championship **8.30 LIVE** World Rally Championship. The Rally Finland **10.00** WRC — More Than Machine **11.00 LIVE** World Rally Championship. The Rally Finland **1.30 LIVE** Men's Cycling Pro Series. Tour of Denmark **2.30 LIVE** Tour De France Women **5.45** Reload **6.15** MLB Highlights **7.15 LIVE** MLB: Tampa Bay Rays v Chicago White Sox **10.00** MLB Plays Of The Week **10.30** World Rally Championship **11.00** British Superbikes **12.00** Training Day **12.15 LIVE** MLB **3.00** UEC Mountain Bike European Championship **4.00-6.00** FIA Formula E World Championship

DISCOVERY
6.00pm Alaska — Homestead Rescue. Back-to-back editions **9.00** Barnwood Builders. West Virginia University volunteers help the team raise a timber frame barn **10.00** Wheeler Dealers **11.00** Mighty Truckers **12.00-3.00** Kindig Customs

PBS AMERICA
5.20pm Spy Ops **9.05-12.00** Sicily — The Conquered Isle. Documentary exploring Sicily's ancient past

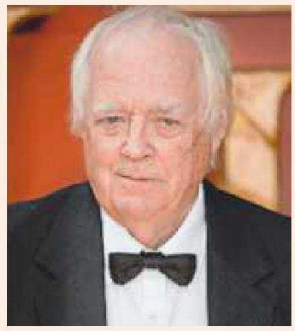
SKY DOCUMENTARIES
6.00pm David Holmes — The Boy Who Lived **7.45** Katie Price — Nothing To Hide **9.00 CHOICE** Groomed — The Truth Behind The Lie. New series. The case of Eleanor Williams. (See Critics' choice) **10.00-12.00** Tell Them You Love Me

SKY NATURE
6.00pm David Attenborough's First Life **8.00** Secret Life Of The Tasmanian Devil **10.00** Superbeast **11.00-12.00** Wild Philippines

DISCOVERY HISTORY
6.00pm Blowing Up History **9.00-12.00** Salvage Hunters — The Restorers. Items including a 100-piece chandelier are restored

Radio & Podcasts

● Illuminated (Radio 4, 7.15pm)
The former BBC foreign correspondent Jenny Hill looks at the effect that the things we physically leave behind when we die have on our families, and the way they grieve for us. Her father, Arthur, a chemistry teacher, died three years ago, and in *Precious Stones* she tells of how his collection of rocks, fossils, gemstones and minerals were collected over a lifetime, and still take up a lot of space in the small family home in Jersey. Hill returns to the island to pore over her father's passion and consider what his collection can reveal about the man who collected them.



Tim Rice looks at unsung musical heroes on Boom

● Legacy Tracks with Sir Tim Rice (Boom Radio, 9pm)
In a show presented in partnership with Save the Children to promote its gifts in wills programme, Rice looks at musicians who have made an impact with their contributions to classic tracks, such as Raphael Ravenscroft, the performer of the sax riff on Gerry Rafferty's *Baker Street*.

● Desert Island Discs Revisited (Radio 4 Extra, 11am)
The station begins a new series of episodes that focus on great American singers. It begins with the crooner Tony Bennett, who tomorrow joins the station's 100 Club of performers born a century ago. The contemporary castaway on *Desert Island Discs* (Radio 4, 10am) with Lauren Laverne is the fashion entrepreneur Emma Grede, best known for her work on brands with the Kardashian clan. *Clair Woodward*

TIMES RADIO
10.00 Sunday Morning With Adam Boulton **1.00** Ryan Tubridy **4.00** Ayesha Hazarika With Times Radio Drive **7.00** Highlights From Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00** The Best Of Times Radio

To get in touch with the Times Radio studio, text TIMES plus your message to 87222. Texts cost your standard message charge.

RADIO 4
10.00 Desert Island Discs. Lauren Laverne talks to businesswoman Emma Grede **11.00** The Archers (R) **12.15** Last Word — Doing Death Differently. Matthew Bannister asks who a funeral is for (R) **12.30** Just A Minute (R) **1.00** The World This Weekend **1.30** Britain's Robot Army. Former Army officer Will Robson explored how technology shapes modern warfare, visiting Salisbury Plain and the factories building Britain's drones **2.00** Gardeners' Question Time (R) **2.45** NatureBang. Becky Ripley and Emily Knight examine the sound of fear (R) **3.00** Drama: Trouble In Min, by Alice Childress **4.00** Bookclub. Janice Hallett speaks to a live audience about her debut novel, The Appeal **4.30** Brain Of Britain **5.00** Witness History (R) **5.10** Church Going, With Giles Fraser (R) **5.54** Shipping **6.00** News **6.15** Pick Of The Week **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Illuminated. A family must decide what to do with their late father's rock collection **7.45** Just One Thing With Michael Mosley. Explaining the benefits of switching to wholegrain (R) **8.00** Feedback (R) **8.30** Last Word (R) **9.00** Toast (R) **9.26** Appeal (R) **9.30** From Our Own Correspondent (R) **10.00** John Simpson's Dictators (R) **11.00** Great Lives. Dr Hannah Critchlow picks Professor Colin Blakemore (R) **11.30** More Wow. The emotional impact of birth and grief (R) **11.45** Short Works (R) **12.00** News **12.15** Inside Health (R) **12.45** Bells (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
10.00 Know Your Place **10.30** Take It From Here **11.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **11.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **12.00** Poetry Extra **12.30** Sounds Like London — 100 Years Of Black Music In The Capital **1.40** Inheritance Tracks **1.50** Small Island **3.00** Know Your Place **3.30** Take It From Here **4.00** Calls From Far Away **4.45** Summer Ghosts **5.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **5.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **6.00** Poetry Extra **6.30** Sounds Like London — 100 Years Of Black Music In The Capital **7.40** Inheritance Tracks **7.50** Small Island **9.00** Know Your Place **9.30** Take It From Here **10.00** Revolting People **10.30** Alexei Sayle's Strangers On A Train **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** In And Out Of The Kitchen **11.30-12.00** Electric Ink

LBC
10.00 Lewis Goodall **12.00** Ali Miraj **3.00** Henry Riley **6.00** Clare Foges. Debate **9.00** Consumer Hour **10.00** Nick Abbott. Discussion **1.00** Richard Spurr **4.00** Ian Payne

RADIO 3
9.00 Sunday Morning **12.00** Private Passions. Michael Berkeley is joined by the American singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega (R) **1.30** Music Map. Bizet's Carmen Suite No 1 (R) **3.00** Sofi Jeannin — Singing Together (R) **4.00** Jazz Record Requests **5.00** The Early Music Show. A concert by Contre le Temps at York Early Music festival **6.00** Choral Evensong. From Gloucester Cathedral during the Three Choirs festival, with music by Hurd and Bliss (R) **7.00** New Generation Artists. Georgia Mann introduces the UK-based Kleio Quartet playing Haydn's Frog Quartet and Ukrainian clarinettist Oleg Shebeta-Dragan performing a sonata by Alec Templeton **7.30** BBC Proms. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, London, the BBC SO performs Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the soloist Leonidas Kavakos, Scriabin's Symphony No 2 and Dani Howard's Signal **10.00** Night Tracks. A soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** Unclassified. Elizabeth Alker is joined by the poet and novelist Helen Mort to share a track that transports her elsewhere (R) **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM
10.00 Tim Lihoreau **12.00** John Brunning **3.00** Stephen Mangan. Classical favourites **6.00** Classical Pioneers **7.00** Zeb Soanes **10.00** Ritula Shah **1.00** Bill Overton **4.00** Lucy Coward

RADIO 2
9.00 Love Songs With Michael Ball **11.00** Paddy McGuinness **1.00** Elaine Paige. Including highlights of new musicals at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe **3.00** Sounds Of The Seventies With Lulu. The singer takes a trip down memory lane as she sits in for Shaun Keaveney **5.00** Pick Of The Pops. The chart from this week in 1982 **6.00** Pick Of The Pops. The chart from today in 1996 **7.00** Tony Blackburn **8.00** Paul Gambaccini **10.00** Radio 2 Unwinds **12.00** Richie Anderson **3.00** Alternative Sounds Of The 90s (R) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

VIRGIN RADIO
10.00 The Huey Show **2.00** Ana Matronic **6.00** Tim Burgess **8.00** James Merritt **11.00** Jen Thomas **2.00** Stu Elmore

TALKSPORT
9.00 The Sunday Edition **11.00** The Warm Up **1.00** The Sunday Session **3.00** Commonwealth Games **6.00** The Final Word **9.00** Trans Europe Express **12.00** A Talksport Special **1.00** Extra Time With Paul Ross

RADIO 4 FM 92.4-94.6 MHz
LBC FM 97.3 MHz
RADIO 3 FM 90.2-92.4 MHz
CLASSIC FM FM 100-102 MHz
RADIO 2 FM 88-90.2 MHz
TALKSPORT MW 1053, 1071, 1089, 1107 kHz

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
9.30 Animal Park Insights. (R)
10.15 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back Vehicle crime. (R)
10.45 Expert Witness (R)
11.15 Homes Under The Hammer Auctions. (R)
12.15 Bargain Hunt In Newark.
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Money For Nothing
2.45 Escape To The Country Alistair Appleton helps a couple relocate to Somerset or Devon. (R)
3.45 The Bidding Room An intimate medical device is the oddest item ever seen on the show.
4.30 The Answer Run New run of the quiz show, hosted by Jason Manford.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Stephen Mangan. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 EastEnders Peter's suspicions about Lauren grow; Barney confesses to Zack; and a revelation leaves Ross determined to go to the police.
8.00 Panorama In-depth current-affairs report.
8.30 Scam Interceptors The interceptors must identify a man tricked into believing he is going to be arrested by the National Crime Agency if he does not transfer money to scammers. (R)
9.00 The Rapture Gabs finally meets Anika Drake; the new nurse Siobhan raises suspicions at Oxsmith; when Bethany is found injured, Gabs and Rafiq plan her escape; and Max pushes Caroline to back Rostyre. (4/5)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.45 FILM: The Mist Stars Thomas Jane and Marcia Gay Harden. The residents of a town are divided by how to survive when a strange fog concealing ravenous monsters envelops the area. Bleak sci-fi horror. (2007, 15)
12.45-6.00 Joins BBC News

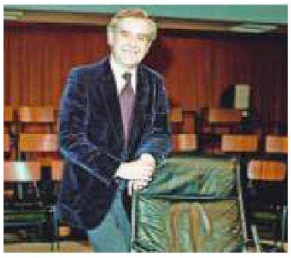
SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather. **10.45** Sportscene — Premiership Highlights. **11.15** FILM: The Mist. **1.10** Scotcast. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC 2

6.30 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
7.15 Money For Nothing (R)
8.00 The Repair Shop Restorations. (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Headlines.
1.00 House Of Games (R)
1.30 The Finish Line (R)
2.15 Do You Know Your Place? A focus on Whitby. (R)
2.45 The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation In Italy. (R)
3.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown At Staffordshire County Show. (R)
4.30 Vintage Antiques Roadshow From London's Mansion House. (R)
5.15 Flog It! In Manchester. (R)
6.00 House Of Games Gethin Jones, Tiff Stevenson, Kate Thornton and Gary Wilmot take part in two editions. (R)
7.00 Global Eye Investigations from correspondents based all over the world.
7.30 Mastermind Clive Myrie asks questions on specialist subjects including British birds of prey, Roger Moore's James Bond, King Charles I and Sylvia Plath.
8.00 Only Connect Victoria Coren Mitchell presents the quiz in which members of rival quiz teams takes on Douglas Adams fans.
8.30 University Challenge Amol Rajan hosts the academic quiz, with teams from Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Darwin College.
9.00 Evolution Chris Packham considers how intelligence itself evolved and how it arose in the extraordinary mind of the dolphin — from light-sensing cells to conscious thought.
10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse — Gone Fishing Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse head to the Norfolk Broads, fishing for rudd in some of East Anglia's most historic and celebrated waterways. (R)
10.30 Newsnight Headlines.
11.05 CHOICE Sing Sing Stars Colman Domingo and Sean San Jose Blackman. A man imprisoned for a crime he did not commit finds new purpose in staging an original play. (2023, 15; see Film choice)
12.45 Countryfile (Signed, R)
1.40-2.25 Bergerac (Signed, R)

ITV 1

6.00 Good Morning Britain
10.00 This Morning Features.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
1.55 Regional News Headlines.
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (R)
3.00 Deal Or No Deal Game. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Game. (R)
5.00 The Chase Quiz show. (R)
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.30 Fletchers' Family Farm A pregnant cow gives birth but it is not straightforward; and the kids enjoy a nature safari in woodland. (R)
8.00 Emmerdale Cain has an important conversation with Kyle; and news about Monty is not good.
8.30 Coronation Street Cassie says an emotional farewell to her family; and Debbie experiences a sobering glimpse into her future.
9.00 CHOICE Long Lost Family — Born Without Trace New series. Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell help a mother found as a baby in a Leicester public phone box in 1983, and a man discovered as a baby boy in 1960 on the second floor of a locked London mansion. (See Critics' choice)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.30 Regional News Headlines.
10.45 Cold Case Forensics: The Death Of God's Banker. A look at the death of the Italian banker Roberto Calvi, whose body was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge, with the investigation leading to a murky world of finances. (R)
11.45 Love & Death Allan grows concerned when his repeated calls to Betty go unanswered. (S1, ep 4, R)
12.45 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 The Staircase (3/8, R)
4.05 Unwind Daily relaxation.
5.05-6.00 Dickinson's Real Deal A visit to Bristol. (R)



Magnus Magnusson (BBC4, 9pm)

Channel 4

6.30 The King Of Queens (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Sitcom. (R)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
12.05 News; Weather Reports.
12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.10 The Great House Giveaway Property. (R)
2.10 Countdown Game.
3.00 A Place In The Sun (R)
4.00 CHOICE Saving Country Houses In the Cotswolds. (See Critics' choice, R)
5.00 Chateau DIY A 180-year-old wine barrel is turned into a quirky dining space. (R)
6.00 American Pickers The experts examine a collection of circus and sideshow memorabilia. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Dover 24/7 — Britain's Busiest Port Border Force officers are on the hunt for illegal meat being smuggled into Britain; police officers are on a stake-out; and the engineers face their biggest job of the year.
9.00 CHOICE Celebrity Hunted New run. Fugitive celebrities Brian and Lucy Conley, Amy Dowden, Carlos Gu, JJ Chalmers, Sophie Morgan, Jen Brister, Laura Smyth, Chris Taylor, Toby Aromolaran, and Scarlette and Stuart Douglas try to evade capture. (See Critics' choice)
10.00 Secret Lives Of Gypsy Wives The family deal with the anniversary of the death of their dad, Sid — and decide to host an ambitious bonfire night display for the estate in his memory; and Trewley gets an unexpected lesson in tough love from her mum.
11.05 Surgery Secrets Of The Super Rich A woman marks her 60th birthday with an endoscopic facelift; a man has an electromagnetic body sculpting; and a woman has a laser procedure to tighten her jawline. (R)
12.05 Secrets Of The Celebrity Sex Tapes Insights.
12.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
1.45 Don't Date Brandon (R)
4.30 Hollyoaks Soap. (R)
5.40 Sunday Brunch (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown (R)

5

6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Opinions.
12.45 News; Weather Reports.
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.20 A Reservation For Death Mystery, with Nathalie Kelley. A travel writer witnesses a murder at a hotel in Malta and becomes ensnared in a web of intrigue and espionage. (R)
4.00 Castle The author reveals he is now a licensed private investigator. (S7, ep 11, R)
4.55 Love Nature Insights. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Majorca — A Year In The Sun Cameras explore Majorca's culture. (R)
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Motorway Cops — Catching Britain's Speeders Officers pull over the driver of a suspected cloned car and he claims he has just swapped the registrations between his two vehicles as one does not have insurance. (R)
7.55 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Street Cops — Catching The Yobs Police pursue a suspected stolen SUV being driven recklessly in Corby; and Northampton PCs are called to deal with a loud aggressive drunk.
9.00 CHOICE Fare Dodgers — At War With The Law New series. A Transport for London investigator pursues a suspected fare evader owing the network almost £2,000 in unpaid fares. (See Critics' choice)
10.00 Police Interceptors — Taking Down The Shoplifting Gangs Officers tackle thieves terrorising supermarkets and shops, with armed units scrambled to hunt for a violent shoplifter who stabbed a security guard with a 19cm blade. (R)
11.05 Traffic Cops Officers set out to clamp down on repeat offenders in North Yorkshire. (R)
12.05 Car Pound Cops (R)
1.00 Teleshopping Goods. (R)
2.00 GPs — Behind Closed Doors Medical advice. (R)
2.50 Castle (Series 7, ep 11, R)
3.40 Friends US sitcom. (R)
4.35 The Highland Vet (R)
5.25 Entertainment News
5.35-6.00 Children's Shows

Variations

BBC1 WALES 8.30 Best Of Weatherman Walking **BBC SCOTLAND 2.00** Sign Zone: This Farming Life **3.00** Beechgrove Garden **3.30-4.30** Paramedics On Scene **7.00** Reporting Scotland **7.30** The Great Food Guys **8.00** The Mountain **9.00** Interior Design Masters **10.00** River City **10.30** Two Doors Down **11.00** Scotcast **11.30-12.00** Gary — Tank Commander **STV 6.00** Good Morning Britain **10.00** This Morning **1.30** News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal **3.00** Deal Or No Deal **4.00** Tipping Point **5.00** The Chase **6.00** STV News; Weather **6.30** News; Weather **7.30** Fletchers' Family Farm **8.00** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street **9.00** Long Lost Family — Born Without Trace **10.00** News At Ten **10.45** Cold Case Forensics: The Death Of God's Banker **11.45** Love & Death **12.45** Teleshopping **3.00** The Staircase **4.05-6.00** Night Vision **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Blociau Rhif **6.05** Sam Tan **6.15** Blwi **6.25** Octonots **6.40** Amser Maith Maith Yn Ol **6.55** Og Y Draenog Hapus **7.05** Joni Jet **7.20** Bendibwmbwls **7.30** Crawc A'i Ffrindiau **7.45** Kim A Cai A Cranc **8.00** Odo **8.10** Sion Y Chef **8.20** Anifeiliaid Bach Y Byd **8.30** Pablo **8.45** Awyr Iach **9.00** Guto Gwningen **9.15** Nos Da Cyw **9.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni **9.30** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **12.00** Newyddion **12.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **2.00** Newyddion **2.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **6.00** Am Dro! **6.59** Newyddion **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion **8.00** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **10.00** Y Babell Len **10.30** Ralio+ **11.00-12.05** Y Sioe

You say

I love **Saturday Live** with Adrian Chiles (Radio 4). He has a variety of interesting guests and snippets of music. It is a good listen on Saturday morning.
Valerie Ruck

May I recommend Sarah Walker's **Sunday Morning** programme on Radio 3 to Classic FM listeners. They will enjoy a classical repertoire with which they will be largely familiar, presented in an informative and insightful style.
Chris Field
Send your comments to telly@sunday-times.co.uk

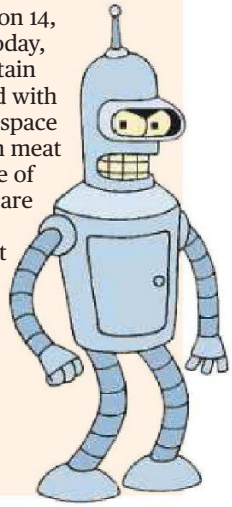
Critics' choice

Long Lost Family — Born Without Trace (ITV1, 9pm)
This series spun off from *Long Lost Family* seeks to connect foundlings with members of their birth family. Ideally that is the mothers who abandoned them, albeit usually in places where they expected the babies to be found. That was the case with Sarah – whose story is one of two told in Nicky Campbell and Davina McCall's show tonight – as she was left in a telephone box in Leicester in 1983 and found by someone who entered it to make a call. Ariel Bruce's research team identify the birth mother, as they do in a parallel storyline centred on David, who was left in a London apartment block in 1960. A quest that also takes in Paris homes in on the Netherlands and a now dead woman called Petra – an apt outcome, as *Long Lost Family*'s own birth parent was a now axed Dutch show, *Spoorloos* (without trace).
John Dugdale

Davina McCall with Sarah, who as a baby was left in a phone box

Bender and co serve up more mayhem

Futurama (Disney+)
Thanks to the inclusion of such visually playful episodes as *The Numberland Gap* (in which the team entered a parallel universe populated entirely by numbers), season 13 of Matt Groening's surreal space sitcom was the strongest since the show's 2023 revival. Season 14, which launches today, promises to maintain that high standard with sustained riffs on space pirates, lab-grown meat and the nightmare of American healthcare plus the grand return of the great Lord Nibbler and an episode dedicated to, erm, the cancellation of *Futurama*. *AM*



Saving Country Houses (C4, 4pm)
When Penelope Keith died, aged 86, at the end of June, the BBC had her 1970s sitcom hits, *The Good Life* and *To the Manor Born*, available to rerun. Channel 4, by contrast, is able to repeat this series from January, having earlier launched her sideline as a presenter with *Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages* (2014-16). She provides the voiceover and links but doesn't visit the series' nine recurring stately homes, which share a need to pay for upkeep bills. First up are mansions in the Cotswolds, in Co Durham and near Rugby, whose owners respectively hope that opening a café and sauna, using family members to do everything, and exploiting a Gunpowder Plot connection will do the trick. A bit like Keith herself in her second career, all are elderly national treasures reinventing themselves to keep the show on the road. *JD*

Sally Magnusson Remembers... Mastermind (BBC4, 9pm)
The broadcaster and writer Sally Magnusson is being asked not to reminisce about her own long TV career presenting *Songs of Praise*, but that of her father, Magnus. From 1972 to 1997 he was the BBC's quiz master on *Mastermind*, welcoming contestants to the leather chair and coining the catchphrase "I've started, so I'll finish". Not as much fun having it shouted at her on the way to school, his daughter confirms.

Penelope Keith (C4, 4pm)

Celebrity Hunted (C4, 9pm)
Famous and not so famous faces race for Stand Up To Cancer from the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich with the hunters in hot pursuit. Will Brian Conley and his daughter Lucy, the *Strictly* dancers Amy Dowden and Carlos Gu, the presenters Sophie Morgan and JJ Chalmers, the comedians Jen Brister and Laura Smyth, the Love Islanders Chris Taylor and Toby Aromolaran and the property developers Scarlette and Stuart Douglas remain at liberty for long?

Fare Dodgers — At War with the Law (5, 9pm)
This oddly compelling series returns with Lisa, a Transport for London investigator, staking out Whitechapel station looking for a man who is suspected of racking up more than £2,000 in unpaid fares. She missed him by just seven minutes last time.
Helen Stewart

Film choice

Doctor in the House (Talking Pictures TV, 5.05pm)
The first of many screen outings for Richard Gordon's *Doctor* books was the most commercially successful British hit of 1954. A trainee surgeon, Simon Sparrow (Dirk Bogarde), joins the new student intake at St Swithin's hospital, only to fall foul of Sir Lancelot Spratt (James Robertson Justice), a character largely responsible for the stereotypical view of consultants ever since. Familiar British faces include Kenneth More and Donald Sinden. (1954)

Twister (Film4, 9pm)
Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt go storm-chasing in this action blockbuster full of incredible effects. Hunt plays Jo Thornton, a tornado-obsessed meteorologist leading a team of storm chasers, with Paxton as her estranged husband, Bill Harding, a former storm chaser turned TV weatherman. (1996)

Sing Sing (BBC2, 11.05pm)
Colman Domingo was Oscar-nominated for his part in Greg Kwedar's powerful drama about a theatre group at New York's high-security prison, which once forbade its inmates even to speak. Domingo plays John "Divine G" Whitfield, a founding member of the group who is a published writer on the outside, incarcerated for a crime he didn't commit. (2024)

On demand

● **Evil (Paramount+)**
After a brief tenure on Netflix, Robert and Michelle King's supernatural procedural now has a new home. An example of US network TV at its best, this deeply unsettling show stars Katja Herbers, Mike Colter and Aasif Mandvi as a forensic psychologist, a priest-in-training and a secular scientist working for the church to investigate instances of demonic possession. Drily funny, but also genuinely scary, the show's four seasons are elevated to greatness by the great Michael Emerson, who invests the character of the dark-arts manipulator Leland Townsend with an authentic malevolent power.

● **Shanked (YouTube)**
Set within a struggling US golf club, this micro-budget sitcom has not had an easy time of it. As soon as it premiered in 2025 Apple TV launched *Stick*, in which Owen Wilson played a former golf pro who had fallen on hard times. Then, this July, Netflix launched *The Hawk*, starring Will Ferrell as a former golf pro fallen on hard times. Despite its minuscule budget this ragtag semi-pro effort has an irresistible charm. Think the scrappy, self-funded charm of *Tires* crossed with the sociopathic chaos of *It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia* and you get the picture.
Andrew Male

BBC 3

7.00pm The Catch Up Update.
7.05 Deadly 60 Exploring the wildlife of British Columbia. **7.30 Deadly 60** The team seeks jaguar in Costa Rica.
8.00 The Great British Sewing Bee The contestants recycle T-shirts and are challenged to make outfits with an eco-message.
9.00 Top Gear Patagonia Special Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May visit the world's southernmost city.
11.10 Icons Of Football Following Hearts and Scotland goalkeeper Craig Gordon as he tries to reach the World Cup.
12.10 Tommy — The Good. The Bad. The Fury
2.40 A Better Place
2.55-3.55 BBC New Comedy Awards 2024

BBC 4

7.00pm Atlantic — The Wildest Ocean On Earth Life in the tropical Atlantic.
8.00 The Art Of Spain Exploring the history of Spanish art.
9.00 CHOICE **Sally Magnusson Remembers ... Mastermind** The writer shares memories of her father. (See Critics' choice)
9.20 Mastermind 1972 Final Magnus Magnusson presents the classic quiz.
9.50 Call My Bluff With Sally Magnusson and Peter Egan.
10.20 Becoming Frida Kahlo Love and trauma shape the painter's final year. (Last in series)
11.20 Turner — The Man Who Painted Britain Chronicling the painter's life.
12.20 As 7pm
1.20 As 10.20pm
2.20-3.20 The Art Of Spain

ITV 2

6.00pm Catchphrase With Kiell Smith-Bynoe, Katie Piper and Shaun Williamson.
7.00 The Floor USA Rob Lowe hosts the gameshow.
8.00 The 1% Club Quiz gameshow with Lee Mack.
9.00 The Only Way Is Essex Dani and Jonnie dive headfirst into their romance, convinced they are on the right track, but the wider group have mixed feelings, especially Jonnie's twin brother, Joe.
10.00 Family Guy The Griffins get a new dog. (Series 7, ep 5) **10.30 Family Guy** Peter is forced to return to third grade. **11.05 Family Guy** Stewie decides to murder Lois. (Series 6, ep 4)
11.35-12.05 American Dad! Stan and Francine go back in time. (Series 16, ep 13)

ITV 3

5.50pm Heartbeat A visitor is suspected of involvement in the theft of a priceless Ming vase. **6.55 Heartbeat** A man who was presumed dead suddenly makes an appearance in Aidensfield.
8.00 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. Barnaby and Jones investigate when a woman is stabbed to death in a churchyard two years after her husband's death.
10.00 Grantchester Geordie suspects foul play when a computer laboratory head dies. (Series 4, ep 3) **11.00 Grantchester** Will and Geordie investigate a woman's death.
11.50-1.25 Trial & Retribution The detectives investigate the murder of a schoolgirl. Michael Brandon guest stars. (Series 10, ep 3)

E4

6.00pm The Simpsons The family reminisces.
6.30 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.30 The Simpsons Lisa signs up to participate in the future colonisation of Mars.
8.00 Vanderpump Rules New series. Natalie gets a frosty reception when she returns from suspension.
9.00 Below Deck Down Under The deck team have a plan to improve relations with the guests after an incident.
10.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics' reactions to The Wheel, Drink Masters and Jamie's £1 Wonders. First shown in November 2022.
11.00-12.05 Naked Attraction An Edinburgh musician and a 20-year-old musical theatre student from Bognor Regis choose dates from a panel of naked people.

U&Drama

6.00pm Last Of The Summer Wine Compo adopts a spiritual outlook on life. **6.40 Last Of The Summer Wine** The trio visit a historical home. **7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine** Compo shocks everyone by making an effort to dress smartly in an attempt to woo a lady.
8.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries An ex-boyfriend of Kristin's dies while skydiving. (Series 4, ep 1)
10.00 New Tricks The squad re-examines the disappearance of an actress. (Series 6, ep 4)
11.20-12.40 Luther Crime thriller, with Idris Elba. The maverick detective investigates the murder of a former child genius's parents. (Series 1, ep 1)

Sky Arts

6.00pm Tales Of The Unexpected A shy woman joins a dating agency. **6.30 Tales Of The Unexpected** A thief faces extradition.
7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Maria. A carnival worker buys a strange monkey for his sideshow. **7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents:** Beta Delta Gamma. A member of a fraternity is tricked into believing he killed someone.
8.00 Andre Rieu — Happy Days Are Here Again The violinist and his orchestra perform in Maastricht, featuring feel-good classics, show-tunes and joyous waltzes.
11.00-12.40 Brian And Roger Eno Live At The Acropolis The brothers' first live performance together.

Sky One

6.00pm Animal Control (Series 3, ep 6, R) **6.30 Animal Control** (R)
7.00 The Simpsons Bart wants to try death-defying stunts. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** Marge protests about television violence. (R)
8.00 Agatha Raisin The sleuth's hairstylist becomes the centre of a maelstrom involving murder. (Series 2, ep 1, R) **9.00 Agatha Raisin** The beauty salon case continues. (R)
10.00 Last Week Tonight A look at news and pop culture.
10.45 Animal Control Frank's prank war with Templeton reaches new heights. (Series 3, ep 6, R) **11.15 Animal Control** Frank and Shred must track down an escaped penguin. (R)
11.45-12.40 Grimm (S6, ep 4, R)

Sky Atlantic

5.45pm Task A shocking revelation leads to a final confrontation. (Last in series)
6.50 True Detective — Night Country Danvers and Navarro confirm the location of Annie's murder. (Series 4, ep 4) **7.55 True Detective — Night Country** Prior digs into the links between Tsalal and mining company Silver Sky.
9.00 House Of The Dragon Game Of Thrones prequel, with Matt Smith. (S3, ep 7)
10.15 The Last Of Us Joel and Ellie near the end of their journey; and a flashback reveals a woman placing her trust in a lifelong friend. (Series 1, ep 9)
11.20-12.30 Dune — Prophecy Valya brings Theodosia to the Imperial House to help manage the situation. (2/6)

TPTV

5.05pm CHOICE **Doctor In The House** Comedy. (1954, PG; see Film choice)
6.55 Cycling Proficiency Short film from 1967 in which Roy Hudd learns to ride a bike.
7.00 The Footage Detectives A projectionist introduces vintage cinema ads.
8.00 Maigret The inspector travels to Finland to investigate a murder. (French with subtitles)
9.50 FILM: The Saint — The Fiction Makers Stars Roger Moore. A thief is hired to protect a reclusive female writer. Fun adventure. (1968, U)
11.55-1.55 Murders In Hossegor Crime drama, with Xavier Deluc and Barbara Cabrita. (French with subtitles)

Films

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE
5.30pm Wicked — For Good (2025, PG) **8.00** Normal. A temporary small-town law enforcer uncovers dark mysteries after a local bank robbery. (2026, 15) **9.35** Heretic. Two young missionaries must prove their faith when they are greeted by Mr Reed. (2024, 15) **11.35-1.35** Mortal Kombat II (2026, 15)

SKY CINEMA THRILLER
6.00pm Juror #2 (2024, 12) **8.00** Lethal Weapon. An ageing detective and his suicidal partner take on a drug cartel. (1987, 15) **10.00-12.05** Lethal Weapon 2. The detectives set their sights on a corrupt diplomat. (1989, 15)

SKY CINEMA GREATS
4.10pm Grease (1978, PG) **6.05** Grease 2 (1982, PG) **8.00** Terms Of Endearment. Charting the relationship between a mother and her strong-willed daughter. (1983, 15) **10.20-12.30** Escape To Victory. Allied PoWs take on the Nazis in a football match, but plan to escape during the game. (1981, PG)

SKY CINEMA SELECT
5.30pm Shaun The Sheep Movie (2015, U) **7.00** The Lego Movie. An ordinary man is mistakenly chosen to save the world. (2014, U) **8.45** Penguins Of Madagascar. A secret society of animals try to foil an evil scheme. (2014, U) **10.20-12.35** The Lord Of The Rings — The War Of The Rohirrim (2024, 12)

SKY CINEMA DRAMA
6.00pm True Grit. A farm girl recruits a drunken one-eyed marshal to help her track down her father's killer. (2010, 15) **8.00** Legends Of The Fall. A man's fiancee moves into his remote family home. (1994, 15) **10.25-12.50** Joker — Folie A Deux (2024, 15)

FILM4
5.00pm 10 Things I Hate About You (1999, 12) **6.50** The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen. Characters from Victorian literature battle an evil villain. (2003, 12) **9.00** CHOICE Twister. A storm-chaser and her estranged husband reunite to map the path of a tornado. (1996, PG; see Film choice) **11.15-1.05** Beast. A man and his teenage daughters are hunted by a rogue lion. (2022, 15)

Entertainment

ITV4
5.55pm Minder **7.00** River Monsters **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** FILM: Under Siege **11.05** Star Trek — Strange New Worlds **12.05** Lost **1.00** Motorsport UK **1.55-2.45** BattleBots

MORE4
5.50pm Car SOS **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** Bill Bailey's Vietnam **10.00** 24 Hours In A&E **12.05** 999 — On The Front Line **1.05-3.15** 24 Hours In A&E

U&GOLD
5.40pm Last Of The Summer Wine **6.20** Keeping Up Appearances **7.00** Only Fools And Horses **7.40** Dad's Army — The Lost Episodes **8.15** Are You Being Served? **9.00** Fawlty Towers **9.40** Going Straight **10.20** Not Going Out **11.00** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.35** Colin's Sandwich **12.15** Going Straight **12.55** Fawlty Towers **1.40-2.15** Not Going Out

SKY COMEDY
6.00pm Will & Grace **7.00** The US Office **8.00** Hitmen — Reloaded **9.00** Real Time **10.10** Hacks **11.30** Hitmen — Reloaded **12.30** Community **1.30-2.40** The Chair Company

5 STAR
6.00pm Home And Away **7.00** GPs — Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts **9.00** Ambulance — Code Red **10.00** A&E After Dark **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00** 999 — Killer On The Line **1.00** Cold Case Killers **2.00-2.45** Casualty 24/7 —Every Second Counts

5 USA
6.00pm NCIS **9.00** NCIS: Hawaii **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.55-2.55** Blue Bloods

SKY WITNESS
6.00pm Nothing To Declare **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **10.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **11.00** The Rookie **12.00-2.00** FBI

U&W
6.00pm DIY SOS — The Big Build **7.00** MasterChef Australia. New series. The auditions **8.40** Dom Chinea's Cornish Workshop **9.40** Designing The Hebrides **11.00** One Born — What Happened Next? **12.00-1.00** First Responders

COMEDY CENTRAL
5.55pm Friends **9.00** Stupid Central. Two episodes of the comedy **10.00** Mr Bean **11.00** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **12.00** Most Ridiculous **1.00-2.30** South Park

U&YESTERDAY
6.00pm Antiques Roadshow **7.00** The Green Planet **8.00** Canal Boat Diaries **9.00** Portillo's Empire Journey **10.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics **12.00-1.00** Bangers & Cash

U&DAVE
6.00pm The Hairy Bikers — Mums Know Best **7.00** Mortimer & Whitehouse – Gone Fishing **7.40** Would I Lie To You? **9.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **10.00** QI XL **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40-2.00** Would I Lie To You?

Factual

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6.00pm Secret Nazi Science **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Disaster Autopsy **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Plane Crash Recreated **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Border Protection Spain **1.00-2.00** To Catch A Smuggler

DISCOVERY
5.00pm Alaska — Homestead Rescue **7.00** Ant Anstead Master Mechanic

Times+ members save an exclusive £250 per person on all Riviera Travel seven-night or longer Europe river cruises departing September to November 2026. Offer ends August 16.

Visit timesplus.com/Riviera for your unique Times+ code

Call 0808 291 2390 or visit thetimes.com/th-Riviera

TIMES Holidays

ABTA Travel with confidence ABTA No.P8770

Terms and conditions apply. Times+ £250pp discount applicable to all Riviera Travel Europe river cruises of seven nights or more departing in September, October and November 2026. Times+ members only who quote their unique code upon enquiry on an applicable sailing by August 16, 2026. Subject to availability and Riviera Travel booking conditions. Offer combinable with selected Riviera Travel website promotions, see supplier website for more information. See more at thetimes.com/holidays/Riviera.

8.00 The Woodland Workshop **9.00** Invasion Of The Mega Sharks **10.00** How To Train A Great White **11.00** The Alaska Triangle **12.00-2.00** Deadliest Catch

PBS AMERICA

5.50pm Hitler's Gold **6.55** Conquistadors — The Rise And Fall **7.55** Pirates — Behind The Legends **8.55** The Anti-Soviet Fighters **10.00** Hitler's Gold **11.00-12.00** Pirates — Behind The Legends

SKY DOCUMENTARIES

5.55pm JFK — Destiny Betrayed **7.00** David Frost vs **8.00** The Cult Of The Family **11.20-1.20** Costa Concordia — Chronicle Of A Disaster

SKY NATURE

6.00pm Big Cat Country **7.00** Monkey Life **8.00** Surviving The Amazon **9.00** Superbeast. The shark **10.00** Big Cat Country **11.00-12.00** Dawn To Dusk

DISCOVERY HISTORY

7.00pm How The Universe Works **8.00** To Live Or Die On Everest. Deadly weather on Mount Everest in 2019 **9.00** Unexplained And Unexplored **10.00** How Do They Do It? **11.00-12.00** Combat Dealers

Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

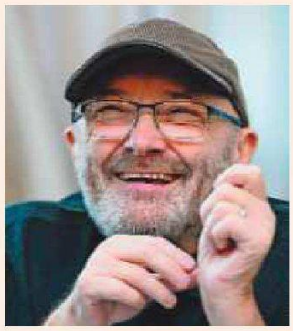
6.00am News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **9.00** Good Morning Transfers **10.00** Sky Sports FC **12.00** Transfer Talk **1.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **3.00** LIVE The Hundred: Welsh Fire Women v Southern Brave Women **6.00** News **6.30** LIVE SPFL: Celtic v Dundee **10.15** LIVE Tennis. The Canadian Open **4.00-6.00** News

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am Shanghai Masters Snooker **8.00** World Rally Championship **8.30** Cricket Reload **8.45** Cricket Reload **9.00** Test Cricket **10.00** Roll The Tape **10.15** No Filter Football **10.30** World Rally Championship **11.00** Uefa Champions League **11.30** Uefa Europa League **12.30** Uefa Conference League **1.30** Tour De France Women **2.30** LIVE Tour De France Women. Coverage from the third stage of the race **5.45** Original Documentary **6.00** LIVE Ultimate Pool **9.30** Premier League Stories **10.00** NWSL **12.00** MLB Highlights **1.00** LIVE MLB **4.00-6.00** MLB Classic

Radio & Podcasts

● Vernon Kay (Radio 2, 9.30am)
The re-emergence of Phil Collins into public life as his health improves continues, as he joins Kay for a special edition of *Tracks of My Years*, choosing ten songs that have provided a soundtrack to his life. Collins also discusses his childhood as a teenage drummer before joining Genesis in 1970 and eventually his parallel solo career; he reveals to Kay how he made his hit *In the Air Tonight*. *Rock and Roll Confessions* is the new podcast from the former Clash drummer Terry Chimes with cool punky guests including Gaye Advert and Marco Pirroni.



Phil Collins is the special guest on Radio 2 at 9.30am

● The Bare Necessities (Radio 4, 1.45pm)
Disaster prepping is largely regarded as something done by Americans and billionaires, but across this week the writer Dan Richards meets people from the UK who have the life skills that will be very useful if everything goes wrong. He begins with Zeki Basan, a traditional skills and survival instructor based in the Cairngorms.

● Screenshot (Radio 4 Extra, 10am)
As part of the station's series this week celebrating the 40th anniversary of the release of the first Studio Ghibli animation, *Castle in the Sky*, Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode discuss the history and influence of the company with the TV and video game critic Kambole Campbell and talk to Emily Mortimer about dubbing the English voices for the film *Howl's Moving Castle*.
Clair Woodward

TIMES RADIO

5.00 Tom Nunan With Early Breakfast **6.00** Kate McCann And Stig Abell With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Ed Vaizey **1.00** The Times At One: With Sebastian Payne **2.00** Jane Garvey And Fi Glover **4.00** John Pienaar With Times Radio Drive **7.00** The Evening Edition With Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00** The Best Of Times Radio

To get in touch with the Times Radio studio, text TIMES plus your message to 87222. Texts cost your standard message charge.

RADIO 4

5.00 News **5.04** Last Word (R) **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **6.00** Today **9.00** Across The Red Line. A discussion on falling birth rates **9.30** How Did We Get Here? No World Order. Examining how China reshaped its relationship with the international system **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Behind The Crime. New series. The story of a man who spent years in an Ecuadorian prison for drug trafficking **11.45** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away (R) **12.00** News **12.04** You And Yours **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Bare Necessities. New series. Dan Richards meets people gathering life skills to survive in troubled times **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Alone (R) **2.45** NatureBang. Becky Ripley and Emily Knight discuss giving rights to rivers and forests **3.00** A Good Read **3.30** You're Dead To Me (R) **4.00** Britain's Robot Army (R) **4.30** The Kitchen Cabinet (R) **5.00** PM **6.00** News **6.30** Just A Minute **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** The Briefing Room (R) **8.30** Inside Science (R) **9.00** Across The Red Line (R) **9.30** How Did We Get Here? No World Order (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime **11.00** Intimacy **11.30** Hollywood And The Adland Five (R) **12.00** News **12.30** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA

5.00 Know Your Place **5.30** Take It From Here **6.00** Raffles **6.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **7.00** Control Group Six **7.30** Dad's Army **8.00** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **8.30** Following Pappano **8.45** Small Island (R) **9.00** Just A Minute **9.30** Behind The Taverna **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Screenshot **10.45** Witness History **11.00** Raffles **11.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **12.00** Control Group Six **12.30** Dad's Army **1.00** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **1.30** Following Pappano **1.45** Small Island (R) **2.00** Wordaholics **2.30** A Whole 'Nother Story **3.00** When Marnie Was There **4.00** Screenshot **4.45** Witness History **5.00** Raffles **5.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **6.00** Control Group Six **6.30** Dad's Army **7.00** Dr Phil's Bedside Manner **7.30** Following Pappano **7.45** Small Island (R) **8.00** Wordaholics **8.30** A Whole 'Nother Story **9.00** When Marnie Was There **10.00** Just A Minute **10.30** Listen Against **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Current-ish **11.30-12.00** The In Crowd

LBC

7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Tom Swarbrick. Discussion **7.00** Ali Miraj **10.00** Ben Kentish **1.00** Richard Spurr **4.00** Ian Payne

RADIO 3

6.30 Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00** Classical Live. Mark Forrest introduces highlights from the Proms, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Sibelius's Symphony No 2 in D and Britten's Cello Symphony with the soloist Guy Johnston **4.00** Composer Of The Week: Mozart. Kate Molleson tells Mozart's story through five relationships that shaped him **5.00** In Tune **7.00** BBC Proms. Tom Service presents live from the Royal Albert Hall as Thomas Sondergard conducts the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in Shostakovich's Symphony No 11, with the pianist Kirill Gerstein the soloist for Rachmaninov's Paganini Variations **10.00** Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents an adventurous soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between **11.30** 'Round Midnight. Soweto Kinch presents the best in jazz, with a particular focus on the British scene **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM

6.30 Dan Walker **9.00** The Hall Of Fame Hour **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Zeb Soanes (R) **9.00** Composer Carousel. Today's focus is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who composed more than 800 works. 'Sull'aria' (Marriage Of Figaro), Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (excerpt), Clarinet Concerto in A **10.00** Ritula Shah **1.00** Bill Overton **4.00** Lucy Coward

RADIO 2

6.30 The Sara Cox Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. Phil Collins picks tracks **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** Joel Dommett **7.00** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show With Cerys Matthews. A selection of music from the blues scene, featuring the best of the new releases as well as classic tracks from the archives **10.00** The Good Groove With Melvin Odoom **12.00** Connor Phillips **3.00** Dance Sounds Of The 90s (R) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30 Steve Denyer On The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Emma B **2.00** Ben Jones **6.00** Geoff Lloyd **10.00** Jen Thomas **2.00** Stu Elmore

TALKSPORT

5.00 Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** Talksport Breakfast With Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White And Simon Jordan **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Talksport Drive **7.00** Kick Off. A debate all the big sporting issues **10.00** The Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time With Paul Ross

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
9.30 Animal Park Insights. (R)
10.15 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back Vehicle crime. (R)
10.45 Expert Witness (R)
11.15 Homes Under The Hammer The team visits properties in Kent, Cumbria and Derby.
12.15 Bargain Hunt A visit to Abernyte, near Dundee. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Money For Nothing Jacqui Joseph saves a massage bed from the skip.
2.45 Escape To The Country Seeking a Pembrokeshire home with a holiday let. (R)
3.45 The Bidding Room Featuring a teapot, toy tools, a model caravan and a decorative bust. (R)
4.30 The Answer Run Quiz, hosted by Jason Manford.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 EastEnders Ravi pushes Priya for answers about her mystery man; and Lauren tries to deflect Peter's questions, but ultimately admits she and Mark have been dealing stolen cars.
8.00 The Great British Sewing Bee The sewers celebrate Mexican fashion, showing off their skills with a folkloric top, structural garments made from tablecloths and outfits inspired by Mexican festivals.
9.00 Murder 24/7 Investigation into the 2025 murder of 54-year-old Hereford man Jamie Gawler, found in his flat having being beaten to death — it soon transpires that he had recently allowed a stranger to stay. (1/2)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.40 CHOICE Robin Hood Stars Russell Crowe. An archer returning from the crusades faces a plot by a traitorous knight to bring about a French conquest of England. (2010, 12; see Film choice)
12.55-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather. **7.00** River City. Soap. **12.50** Scotcast. Discussion. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC 2

6.30 Bargain Hunt Eric Knowles presets the show from Newark. (R)
7.15 The Bidding Room The dealers are starstruck by a cinematic collection. (R)
8.00 The Great British Sewing Bee The contestants recycle T-shirts and make outfits with an eco-message. (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Headlines.
1.00 House Of Games Sean Fletcher, Louise Minchin, Chris Washington and Kimberly Wyatt take part in the trivia-based quiz. (R)
1.30 The Finish Line Quiz, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene. (R)
2.15 Do You Know Your Place? Vernon Kay presents as the quiz visits Cardiff, with Anneka Rice, Shane Todd and Remi Burgz. (R)
2.45 The Hundred: Sunrisers Leeds Women v London Spirit Women. Live coverage of the match at Headingley. **6.00 The Hundred:** Sunrisers Leeds Men v London Spirit Men. Further live action.
9.30 The Vampire Lestat — Interview With The Vampire An illicit old ally of Lestat's boards the dazed band's tour bus; and some familiar faces await at their next stop. (S3, ep 2)
10.15 It Happened To Me — I Was Jailed In Japan For Ketamine The story of Izabel, who was using ketamine daily at the peak of her addiction, sometimes even at work — seeking an escape in Japan, she was instead met by a nine-officer police raid and five months in a prison cell. (2/6)
10.30 Newsnight Headlines.
11.05 FILM: The Last Bus Stars Timothy Spall, Phyllis Logan, Natalie Mitson, Celyn Jones and Grace Calder. A pensioner travels from John O'Groats to Land's End using his free bus pass, unwittingly becoming a social-media celebrity along the way. Gentle drama. (2021, 12)
12.30-1.30 Uncanny Danny Robins presents real-life accounts of supernatural encounters and expert analysis. (Signed, R)

ITV 1

6.00 Good Morning Britain
10.00 This Morning Features.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
1.55 Regional News Headlines.
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (R)
3.00 Deal Or No Deal Game. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Gameshow, with Ben Shephard. (R)
5.00 The Chase Quiz show, with Bradley Walsh. (R)
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.30 Inside The Langham — Britain's First Grand Hotel The hostelry's CEO arrives in London from head office in Hong Kong to inspect one of the hotel's most ambitious renovations yet.
8.00 Emmerdale Cain is emotional as he decides now is the time; and Noah is pensive about breaking news to his mum, Charity.
8.30 Coronation Street Dylan ends up unconscious after a confrontation with Brody; and Ross changes his story regarding Cassie's departure.
9.00 CHOICE Cold Case Forensics: A Death On The Nile. The forensic scientist Angela Gallop and her team investigate the mysterious, sudden death of a solicitor while on a romantic holiday in Egypt. (2/3; see Critics' choice)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.30 Regional News Headlines.
10.45 FILM: Bad Boys II Stars Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. Mismatched undercover cops set out to stop a drug lord flooding the market with a deadly form of Ecstasy. Chaotic comedy thriller. (2003, 15)
1.10 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 The Summit Challenge. (R)
3.50 Unwind Daily relaxation.
5.05-6.00 Long Lost Family — Born Without Trace (R)

Theresa May (Sky Doc, 9pm)

Channel 4

6.30 The King Of Queens (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Sitcom. (R)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
12.05 News; Weather Reports.
12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.10 The Great House Giveaway Property. (R)
2.10 Countdown Game.
3.00 A Place In The Sun (R)
4.00 Saving Country Houses Transforming a house in the Cotswolds into a sauna. (R)
5.00 Chateau DIY Rebuilding a bridge over a stream with no DIY experience. (R)
6.00 American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz find a fleet of concept cars. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Hotel Chocolat Unwrapped A chocolatier dreams up limited edition drinking chocolate flavours; and all the stops are pulled out during the countdown to the opening of the Chicago store.
9.00 Celebrity Hunted Two of the fugitives drop in on a celebrity colleague; another pair make a bold move by going on live television; and two more alert the hunters after cracking jokes in Brighton.
10.00 Gogglebox The critics' views of The Celebrity Traitors, Game of Wool — Britain's Best Knitter, Trigger Point, Hunted, Squid Game — The Challenge and Hamza's Hidden Wild Isles. (R)
11.05 Secret Lives Of Gypsy Wives The family host an ambitious bonfire night for the estate in memory of their dad Sid; and Trewley gets a lesson in tough love from her mum. (R)
12.05 Naked Attraction (R)
1.05 Ramsay's Hotel Hell (R)
1.55 FILM: Breakthrough Stars Chrissy Metz. When her adopted 14-year-old son falls through the ice on a frozen lake, a woman refuses to give up hope. Emotional fact-based drama. (2019, 12)
3.50 Couples Come Dine With Me Parties in Cheshire. (R)
4.45 The Piano (R)
5.40 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown (R)

5

6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Opinions.
12.45 News; Weather Reports.
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.15 A Murder In Venice Thriller, with Sophie Hopkins. When her new roommate goes missing in Italy, an art student teams up with her aunt to save her friend. (R)
4.00 Castle Beckett and her team investigate the murder of a TV actress. (Series 7, ep 12, R)
4.55 Love Nature Insights. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Majorca — A Year In The Sun A look at the yachting industry's relationship with the island. (R)
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 The Yorkshire Vet — At Home With The Greens Jean gets to see her farm from above when Peter Wright takes her on a helicopter ride; and the Greens receive a visit from an estate agent. (R)
7.55 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Inside Longleat There are unexpected visitors in Longleat garden; and the cameras are primed to investigate which mammal has made more progress in the waterways in 12 months than humans have in 30.
9.00 CHOICE The Victorians Rob Rinder and Ruth Goodman team up to discover how some of history's most famous events were experienced by the rich and by the poor, starting in the 1840s. (See Critics' choice)
10.30 The Pile Up — Death On The Motorway An analysis of one of the worst motorway crashes in British history, which took place on Friday November 4, 2011, when 34 vehicles were involved a pile-up on the M5 near Taunton. (R)
12.05 The Cannibal Next Door The story of the notorious cannibal Armin Meiwes. (R)
1.00 Teleshopping Goods. (R)
2.00 GPs — Behind Closed Doors Medical advice. (R)
2.50 Castle (Series 7, ep 12, R)
3.40 Friends US sitcom. (R)
4.30 The Highland Vet (R)
5.25 Entertainment News
5.35-6.00 Children's Shows

Variations

BBC SCOTLAND 7.00 Reporting Scotland **7.30** My Kind Of Town **8.00** This Farming Life **9.00** The Three Kings **10.45** Scotcast **11.15** Our Lives: Stone Strong **11.45-12.00** Loop **STV 6.00** Good Morning Britain **10.00** This Morning **1.30** News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal **3.00** Deal Or No Deal **4.00** Tipping Point **5.00** The Chase **6.00** STV News; Weather **6.30** News; Weather **7.30** Inside The Langham — Britain's First Grand Hotel **8.00** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street **9.00** Cold Case Forensics: A Death On The Nile **10.00** News At Ten **10.45** FILM: Bad Boys II **1.10** Teleshopping **3.00** The Summit **3.50-6.00** Night Vision **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Yr Whws **6.10** Shwshaswyn **6.20** Jen A Jim Pob Dim **6.35** Tomos A'i Ffrindiau **6.45** Fferm Fach **7.00** Blociau Lliw **7.05** Digbi Draig **7.20** Caru Canu A Stori **7.30** Twm Twrch **7.45** Help Llaw **8.00** Byd Carlo Bach **8.10** Caban Banana Gareth **8.15** Byd Tad-Cu **8.30** Mojo Swoptops **8.45** Ahoi! **9.00** Chwedlau Tinga Tinga **9.15** Twt **9.25** Jen A Jim A'r Cywiadur **9.40** Blero Yn Mynd I Ocido **9.50** Annibendod **10.00** Blociau Lliw **10.05** Twm Twrch **10.15** Help Llaw **10.30** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Heledd Cynwal and Tudur Owen guide viewers through the morning's events **12.00** Newyddion **12.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Further coverage **2.00** Newyddion **2.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **7.30** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **7.50** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **10.15** Y Babell Len **10.45-11.50** Iaith Ar Daith

You say

The **First Night of the Proms** (BBC iPlayer) – Yunchan Lim's rendition of Ravel's Piano Concerto in G at the first night of the Proms was magical and uplifting. This young man has a wonderful musical career ahead of him. Marvellous!
Lesley Neary

Thank you BBC4 for giving us three hours of programmes relating to Linda Ronstadt's voice and career.
Kevin Miller
Send your comments to telly@sunday-times.co.uk

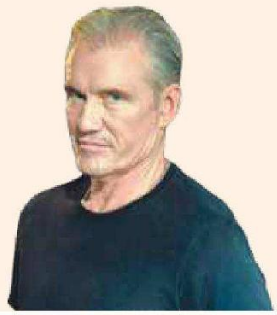
Critics' choice

The Victorians (5, 9pm)
Rob Rinder and Ruth Goodman return with another of their *Rich Lives, Poor Lives* investigative series, in this episode focusing on the Victorian era. As ever, his interest is in the wealthy and hers the huddled masses, the presenting pair play-acting happily as irretrievable snob and beaten-down worker. Tonight, the age of the railways, which would transform the British countryside, revolutionise trade and create opportunities for ordinary people. Goodman points out that the fastest most people would have travelled was at their own running pace, so the mere idea of stepping on to the third-class open carriages (effectively cattle crates, to Rinder's disgust) was breathtaking. First, though, railway lines would have to be cut through the land. Men of vision laid the plans, but for the labourers who hacked at the land it was dirty, dangerous work. *Helen Stewart*

Rob Rinder and Ruth Goodman return with four new episodes

Inventions that changed the world

History's Greatest Machines (Sky History/Now, 9pm)
"I'm Dolph Lundgren," says the still striking Swedish actor and presenter, *below*. "On screen I'm all about the action, but off screen I have degrees in engineering. I even studied at MIT." Last seen in this year's *Masters of the Universe* reboot, the 68-year-old former Bond baddie tonight explores the impact of military hardware such as the M65 atomic cannon, the Second World War B-17 bomber and the F-35 stealth fighter. *HS*



Cold Case Forensics (ITV1, 9pm)
The world-renowned former senior Home Office forensic scientist Dr Angela Gallop and her team investigate the mysterious sudden death of a British solicitor while on a romantic holiday in Egypt. The *Cold Case Forensics* true crime documentary strand has been running since 2022, and in this latest episode Gallop seeks to unlock the secrets of the case to prove that Cheryl Lewis, from north Wales, was murdered at the Winter Palace Hotel on the banks of the Nile in Luxor in October 1998. The episode is titled *A Death on the Nile* – Agatha Christie was a frequent visitor to the luxury hotel, which was a source of inspiration for her 1937 novel. Lewis's partner, the industrial chemist John Allan, pleaded not guilty to her murder and blamed drug dealers, arms runners or diamond smugglers. The actress Nicola Walker narrates. *HS*

The Salisbury Poisonings — A Spy Next Door (Sky Documentaries/Now, 9pm)
If C4's *The Salisbury Poisonings* hasn't answered all your questions about the 2018 Novichok attack on Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia, then this might. Among those interviewed are the former prime minister Theresa May, the former home secretary Amber Rudd and Charlie Rowley, the partner of Dawn Sturgess, the woman killed by inadvertent exposure to the nerve agent.

Luca Lubrano (Sky Atlantic, 9pm)

Joe & David's Magical Sitcom Tour (U&Gold, 9pm)
This show sounds like it should simply be a frivolous lark: just two comedians – Joe Wilkinson and his writing partner David Earl – visiting sites associated with their favourite sitcoms. However, what transpires here is an oddly moving, eerily surreal trip through the world of *Porridge*, including an encounter with the show's writers, Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais. A surprisingly emotional testament to the power of television.

Gomorrah — The Origins (Sky Atlantic, from 9pm)
Gomorrah followed the crime boss Pietro Savastano; this spin-off explores his roots with an imagining of street life in 1970s Naples. Luca Lubrano plays the nascent kingpin, tonight charged with helping his dubious hero Angelo (Francesco Pellegrino). *Victoria Segal*

Film choice

My Stepmother Is an Alien (Film4, 9pm)
Cosmic slapstick starring Dan Aykroyd as Dr Steven Mills, a bumbling astrophysicist (and widower) who accidentally disrupts the gravity of a distant alien planet. To investigate, the aliens send a beautiful extraterrestrial, Celeste (Kim Basinger), to seduce him and steal his research, although ultimately they fall in love. (1988)

Robin Hood (BBC1, 10.40pm)
The director Ridley Scott reunites with Russell Crowe for a revisionist take on the Robin Hood myth that favours dark and convoluted plotting and a whole lot of violence and betrayal. Crowe is a brooding Robin Longstride, an archer in Richard the Lionheart's army. Richard is played by Danny Huston, so you know that he has to be a cad. But Robin's real foe is Godfrey (Mark Strong). (2010)

Under the Skin (Film4, 11.15pm)
In this extraordinary adaptation of Michel Faber's novel, Scarlett Johansson stalks through the film as the woman who fell to Earth and Scotland's provincial cities are redrawn as alien worlds. Jonathan Glazer's film is told almost entirely through striking images and sound. Johansson's alien hunter is a cold-eyed predator scouring the chaos of the streets in a white van for her next target. It's disturbing yet beautiful. (2013).

On demand

● Ms X (Disney+)
Since starring as Angel Parrish in the Aussie soap *Home and Away*, Melissa George has quietly made a name for herself as one of the finest Australian actresses, with award-winning TV performances in *The Slap*, *In Treatment* and *The Mosquito Coast*. In this New Zealand-set dark comedy she plays Mia Bennett, a suburban mum who, after the death of her debt-ridden husband, gets pulled into the criminal underworld. The show walks a wobbly line between broad laughs and edgy drama, but George keeps it all grounded – bringing a believable humanity to the chaotic shenanigans.

● Doctor Odyssey (ITVX)
Cancelled after just one season, Ryan Murphy's cruise ship medical drama was roundly lambasted by critics. Yet its small coterie of dedicated fans revelled in the lunacy and crafted a number of compelling theories about what was really happening on the high-camp high seas. The main one was that Dr Max Bankman (Joshua Jackson) wasn't really the Odyssey cruise ship's onboard physician but was in a coma after contracting Covid-19. Ridiculous, maybe, but if you watch the show from that perspective it becomes a dark-edged fever dream rather than a far-fetched TV soap. *Andrew Male*

BBC 3

7.00pm The Catch Up Update.
7.05 Deadly 60 An encounter with a giant boa. **7.30 Deadly 60** Tracking down the harpy eagle.
8.00 Top Gear Testing high-performance hatchbacks.
9.00 Survivor Australia New series. The reality show returns to its original setting in Samoa. **10.30 Survivor Australia** There is a distinct difference between the two tribes.
11.50 Confessions Of A Steroid Gang Three-part series documenting how a father and son from north Wales built one of the UK's biggest underground steroid empires.
1.20 Zara McDermott — Disordered Eating
2.20-3.55 Kidnapped By My Mum Documentary.

BBC 4

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Lincoln to York.
7.30 Wainwright Walks Julia Bradbury explores the work of Alfred Wainwright.
8.00 To The Manor Born First episode of the comedy.
8.30 Keeping Up Appearances Hyacinth plans a special supper. (Last in series)
9.00 She-Wolves — England's Early Queens England's first all-female battle for succession. (Last in series)
10.00 Castles — Britain's Fortified History A look at how some castles were transformed into palaces. (Last in series)
11.00 Corridors Of Power — Should America Police The World? Two editions.
1.00 As 9pm
2.00 As 10pm
3.00-3.30 As 7pm

ITV 2

6.00pm Catchphrase Charity edition, with Beverley Callard, Kirsty Gallacher and Stephen K Amos.
7.00 The Floor USA Rob Lowe hosts the American version of the gameshow.
8.00 The 1% Club Quiz hosted by Lee Mack, in which the questions are all about logic and common sense.
9.00 Olivia Attwood — The Price Of Perfection New series. Olivia asks friends why they have chosen to change their appearance.
10.00 Family Guy Bonnie gives birth to a girl. (Series 7, ep 7) **10.30 Family Guy** Peter participates in a medical experiment. **11.05 Family Guy** Lois identifies her would-be killer. (S6, ep 5)
11.35-12.05 American Dad! Cartoon. (Series 16, ep 14)

ITV 3

5.50pm Heartbeat A newcomer reveals a murky past. **6.55 Heartbeat** Bank robbers go on the run in Aidensfield.
8.00 Vera When a body is found on the moors, the detective discovers the victim was a controversial figure. (Series 6, ep 1)
10.00 Grantchester Will receives a phone call revealing his father has got himself into some trouble, so he asks Geordie for help. (Series 4, ep 5) **11.00 Grantchester** Will seeks distraction in Geordie's world where a curious case unfolds concerning the murder of a Teddy Boy at a dance hall.
11.50-1.25 Trial & Retribution Connor and her team struggle to find a lead in the case as the death toll increases. (Series 10, ep 4)

E4

6.00pm The Simpsons Cartoon.
6.30 Hollyoaks Two episodes of the Chester soap.
7.30 The Simpsons Homer makes it his mission to find Smithers a boyfriend.
8.00 Vanderpump Rules Audrey cosies up to new bartender Chris; and Venus tries to broker peace between Natalie and Kim.
9.00 Below Deck Down Under Wihan is fuming with Lara and her criticisms of his team; and silver hotpants cause quite the scene.
10.00 First Dates The romantic hopefuls include a 59-year-old who is embarking on her first-ever date with a woman.
11.00-12.05 Naked Attraction Singletons from Newquay and Sheffield choose dates from six naked people.

U&Drama

6.00pm Last Of The Summer Wine Clegg persuades Compo and Blamire to buy a car. **6.35 Last Of The Summer Wine** The trio take up photography. **7.15 Last Of The Summer Wine** Compo's lucky rabbit's foot causes problems.
8.00 'Allo 'Allo! The Resistance plans to hide stolen money down Rene's trousers. **8.30 'Allo 'Allo!** Rene tries to dispose of the microfilm. **9.05 'Allo 'Allo!** Alfonse is whisked to hospital with heart trouble after being interrogated by the gestapo.
9.35 New Tricks The squad reinvestigates the death of a magnate. (Series 6, ep 5)
10.55-12.10 Luther A gunman murders a series of uniformed police officers. (Series 1, ep 2)

Sky Arts

6.00pm Tales Of The Unexpected Double bill.
7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: You Can't Be A Little Girl All Your Life. **7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents:** The Old Pro.
8.00 The World In A Painting — Velazquez's Chili Pepper The story behind the pepper in Velazquez's Christ in the House of Martha and Mary.
9.15 Beyond The Brush Sian Walters and James Payne explore Botticelli's The Birth Of Venus. **9.45 Beyond The Brush** A look at Da Vinci's The Last Supper.
10.15 Wonderland — Gothic A look at the genre's influence as it spread from literature to film.
11.15-12.15 The Movies Taking a look at the history of cinema.

Sky One

6.00pm Animal Control Emily digs into the mystery surrounding her team. (Series 3, ep 8, R) **6.30 Animal Control** Frank and Victoria try appeal to an unlikely acquaintance. (R)
7.00 The Simpsons Homer fears he has only 24 hours to live. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** Marge recalls how she met Homer. (R)
8.00 Best Medicine Martin invites Louisa to watch the annual bird migration over Port Wenn. (10/13, R)
9.00 Never Mind The Buzzcocks With Mel Blatt, Betty Boo, Tom Davis, Keith Duffy and Shane Lynch. (R)
10.00 The 'Burbs Samira becomes convinced her new neighbour is up to no good. (2/8, R)
10.55-11.55 Animal Control (R)

Sky Atlantic

5.20pm Heated Rivalry Drama, with Hudson Williams. Two rival ice hockey players face an unexpected emotional connection. (1/6) **6.25 Heated Rivalry** Shane and Ilya keep their secret fling alive while their connection is tested.
7.30 True Detective — Night Country The truth about what happened to Annie and the Tsalal men unfolds. (Series 4, ep 6)
9.00 CHOICE Gomorrah — The Origins Drama prequel set in Naples in 1977. (3/6) **10.00 Gomorrah — The Origins** With Luca Lubrano. (Italian with subtitles; see Critics' choice)
11.00-12.00 Prisoner Amber's plan to get Tibor to court is in jeopardy as a game of cat and mouse unfolds. (6/6)

TPTV

4.25pm FILM: Chase A Crooked Shadow Stars Richard Todd. Effective thriller. (1957, U, B/W)
6.10 What's On Previews.
6.25 Whiplash Cobb and his passenger seek shelter.
6.55 The Man From Uncle Kuryakin infiltrates a South American prison camp.
7.55 Buccaneer Burton's shipping deal begins to look a bit suspicious.
9.00 FILM: Accident Stars Dirk Bogarde and Jacqueline Sassard. (1967, PG)
11.05 Fortean TV A woman who speaks an ancient language.
11.40 FILM: Body Double Stars Melanie Griffith and Craig Wasson. Thriller. (1984, 18; ends at **1.55**)

Films

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE
6.00pm Heretic (2024, 15) **8.00** Normal. A temporary small-town law enforcer uncovers dark mysteries after a local bank robbery. (2026, 15) **9.45** Primate. A pet chimpanzee contracts rabies and brutally hunts a family in Hawaii. (2025, 18) **11.20-1.05** Eleanor The Great (2025, 12)

SKY CINEMA THRILLER
6.00pm Lethal Weapon 2. The detectives set their sights on a corrupt diplomat. (1989, 15) **8.00** Lethal Weapon 3. The detectives hunt a former cop who is selling impounded weaponry. (1992, 15) **10.00-12.10** Lethal Weapon 4. The duo hunt a triad boss involved in forgery and trafficking. (1998, 15)

SKY CINEMA GREATS
5.40pm Jerry Maguire (1996, 15) **8.00** The Bodyguard. A famous singer subjected to death threats hires a former Secret Service agent. (1992, 15) **10.10-1.15** The Green Mile. A convicted child-killer on death row starts to exhibit healing powers. (1999, 18)

SKY CINEMA SELECT
5.40pm Dragon Rider (2021, PG) **7.15** Sing. Animated comedy. (2016, U) **9.10** The Secret Life Of Pets. Two hounds must put their differences aside while lost in New York. (2016, U) **10.45-12.15** The Secret Life Of Pets 2 (2019, U)

SKY CINEMA DRAMA
5.20pm Nuremberg (2025, 15) **8.00** Dunkirk. Allied troops surrounded by the German army await rescue during the Second World War. (2017, 12) **9.50-12.00** Anemone (2025, 15)

FILM4
4.45pm Rat Race (2001, 12) **6.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles — Mutant Mayhem. Turtle brothers Donatello, Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael set out to win the hearts of New Yorkers. (2023, PG) **9.00 CHOICE** My Stepmother Is An Alien (1988, 15; see Film choice) **11.15-1.25 CHOICE** Under The Skin (2013, 15; see Film choice)

Entertainment

ITV4
5.55pm Minder **7.00** The Motorbike Show **8.00** World Rally Highlights **9.00** Ice Road Truckers **10.00** All Elite Wrestling — Collision **12.00** Dark Side Of The Ring **12.55** Minder **1.55-2.45** BattleBots

MORE4
5.50pm Car SOS **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** Oti And Richard's South African Odyssey **10.00** 24 Hours In A&E **12.10** 999 — On The Front Line **1.15-3.25** 24 Hours In A&E

U&GOLD
5.40pm Last Of The Summer Wine **6.20** Keeping Up Appearances **7.00** Only Fools And Horses **7.40** Dad's Army — The Lost Episodes **8.20** Are You Being Served? **9.00 CHOICE** Joe & David's Magical Sitcom Tour. New series. David Earl orchestrates a tour of Porridge. (See Critics' choice) **10.00** Porridge **10.40** Not Going Out **11.20** Colin's Sandwich **12.00** Porridge **12.40-1.20** Not Going Out

SKY COMEDY
6.00pm Will & Grace **7.00** The US Office **8.00** The Reluctant Landlord **9.00** FILM: Seven Psychopaths **11.00** Hacks **12.20-1.20** Hitmen

5 STAR
6.00pm Home And Away **7.00** GPs — Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts **9.00** 999 Killer On The Line — Robert Trigg **10.00** 999 — Critical Condition **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00** Surgeons — A Matter Of Life Or Death **1.00** Cold Case Killers **2.00-2.50** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts

5 USA
6.00pm NCIS **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Crime drama **2.00-3.50** Beauty And The Beast

SKY WITNESS
6.00pm Nothing To Declare **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **9.00** Irish Blood. Fiona races to expose the truth **10.00** Blue Bloods **11.00** The Rookie **12.00** FBI **2.00-3.00** Fire Country

U&W
6.00pm DIY SOS — The Big Build **7.00** MasterChef Australia **8.20** Nigella — At My Table **9.00** Inside The Ambulance **10.00** One Born: Twins And Triplets **11.00** First Responders **1.00-3.00** Hashtag Murder

COMEDY CENTRAL
5.55pm Friends **9.00** FILM: Sweet Home Alabama **11.10** Police Squad! **12.10** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **1.10-2.15** The Best Of Mr Bean

U&YESTERDAY
6.00pm Antiques Roadshow **7.00** The Green Planet **8.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics **9.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics **11.00-1.00** Bangers & Cash

U&DAVE
6.00pm Hairy Bikers' Best Of British **7.00** Mortimer & Whitehouse — Gone Fishing **7.40** Would I Lie To You? **9.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **10.00** QI XL **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40** Would I Lie To You? **2.00-2.50** QI XL

Factual

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6.00pm Secret Nazi Science **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Mega Marine Machines **9.00** Construction Fails **10.00** Disaster Autopsy **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Border Protection Spain **1.00-2.00** To Catch A Smuggler

DISCOVERY
5.00pm Alaska — Homestead Rescue **7.00** Ant Anstead Master Mechanic **9.00** Bull Shark Dinner Bell **10.00** What Shark Attacked?

5 Great films on BBC iPlayer

1 Official Secrets (2019)
Keira Knightley and Matt Smith star in this true story of Katharine Gun, who leaked a secret memo in the run-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

2 Mission: Impossible (1996)
Tom Cruise begins his journey as Ethan Hunt in the first film in the spy franchise.

3 My Summer of Love (2004)
Emily Blunt plays well-to-do Tamsin, who one summer forms an unlikely friendship with working-class Mona (Natalie Press).

4 Vertigo (1958)
Hitchcock's psychological thriller about a former San Francisco cop who becomes obsessed with an old college friend's wife.

5 Spider-Man — No Way Home (2021)
Web-slinging fun with Tom Holland and Benedict Cumberbatch.

Tim Glanfield

Keira Knightley as Katharine Gun in Official Secrets

11.00 The Alaska Triangle. Insights **12.00-1.00** Deadliest Catch

PBS AMERICA
5.50pm Hitler's Gold **6.50** Conquistadors — The Rise And Fall **7.50** Pirates — Behind The Legends **8.50** Iron Curtain — Living Under Soviet Occupation **10.00** Hitler's Gold **11.00-12.00** Pirates — Behind The Legends

SKY DOCUMENTARIES
5.55pm JFK — Destiny Betrayed **7.00** Chernobyl — The Lost Tapes **9.00 CHOICE** The Salisbury Poisonings — A Spy Next Door. (See Critics' choice) **10.40-12.50** 2000 Meters To Andriivka

SKY NATURE
6.00pm Big Cat Country **7.00** Monkey Life **8.00** Whale With Steve Backshall **9.00** Extreme Animals — One Wild Day **10.00** Big Cat Country **11.00-12.00** Dawn To Dusk

DISCOVERY HISTORY
7.00pm How The Universe Works **8.00** Attack And Capture — The Story Of U-Boat 505 **9.00** Unexplained And Unexplored **10.00** How Do They Do It? **11.00-12.00** Combat Dealers

Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT
6.00am News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **8.30** Transfer 360 **9.00** Good Morning Transfers **10.00** Sky Sports FC **11.30** Transfer Talk **1.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **2.30** Transfer 360 **3.00 LIVE** The Hundred **6.00 LIVE** The Hundred **9.30 LIVE** Tennis. The Canadian Open **4.00-6.00** News

TNT SPORTS 1
6.00am Tour De France Men **7.00** Men's Cycling World Tour **8.00** Tour De France Women **9.00** Test Cricket Highlights **10.00** WRC Review **11.00** Sign Up — Into Football **12.00** PL Stories **12.30** British Superbikes **1.30** Tour De France Women **2.30 LIVE** Tour De France Women **5.45** Gruppetto **6.00** Uefa Conference League Goals Reload **6.15** Uefa Europa League Goals Reload **6.30** PL Stories **7.00** British Superbikes **8.00** MLB Highlights **9.00** UFC **10.00** What Went Down **10.15** British Superbikes Rewind **10.30** WRC Review **11.30** MLB Highlights **12.30** MLB Lead Off **1.00 LIVE** MLB **4.00** MLB Closer **4.30-6.00** MLB Classic

Radio & Podcasts

● File on 4 Investigates (Radio 4, 8pm)
In *A Romanian Ransom*, Paul Kenyon unveils the story of antisemitism in the country, which continued well into the post-Second World War period, when under the communist regime Jews were restricted from leaving Romania. Kenyon follows the stories of Andrea Bernard and Radu Horaud, raised in the country and hiding their Jewish heritage, whose parents defected to the West and were eventually reunited with them. How? By a Hertfordshire farmer and livestock trader – Henry Jakober – exchanging pigs, cattle and farm equipment for visas.

Myra Anubi explores the impact of mass tourism

● People Fixing the World (BBC World Service, 8.06am)
Dubrovnik has one of the highest tourist-to-resident ratios in Europe, in part thanks to its appearance as King's Landing in *Game of Thrones*. This can sometimes cause friction with residents who are trying to get on with their lives. Myra Anubi visits the city to find out how it is keeping a balance between the visitors, who contribute hugely to the economy, and residents and the services they rely on.

● Lives Less Ordinary (BBC Sounds)
The station's series of interviews with regular folk telling extraordinary stories presents its summer season of true-love tales. The presenter Asya Fouks features a romance between journalists who met while covering events in Syria (one in London and one on the ground in Aleppo). *Clair Woodward*

TIMES RADIO
5.00 Tom Nunan With Early Breakfast **6.00** Kate McCann And Stig Abell With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Ed Vaizey **1.00** The Times At One: With Sebastian Payne **2.00** Jane Garvey And Fi Glover **4.00** John Pienaar With Times Radio Drive **7.00** The Evening Edition With Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00** The Best Of Times Radio

To get in touch with the Times Radio studio, text TIMES plus your message to 87222. Texts cost your standard message charge.

RADIO 4
5.00 News **5.04** Britain's Robot Army (R) **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **6.00** Today **9.00** Invisible Hands. A man who started the Cold War with a telegram **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Screenshot (R) **11.45** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away (R) **12.00** News **12.04** Call You And Yours **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Bare Necessitie. A forager and herbalist who grows plants that provide food and medicine **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: Sunbird **3.00** Lady On Trial With Lucy Worsley. An opera singer who challenged lunacy laws **3.30** Heart And Soul (R) **4.00** The Writing Life Of Sylvia Plath. How Plath's experience of mental illness informed her work (3/3) **4.30** What's Up Docs? A look at hydration **5.00** PM **6.00** News **6.30** Meet David Sedaris (R) **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** File On 4 Investigates. A secret Cold War trade of animals in exchange for Jewish lives **8.40** In Touch **9.00** Crossing Continents. New run. Yolande Knell reports on how Gaza is developing as an unlikely tech hub **9.30** Scam Secrets (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime **11.00** Wild Inside (R) **11.30** Hollywood And The Adland Five (R) **12.00** News **12.30** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
5.00 When Marnie Was There **6.00** The Waiting Game **6.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **7.00** Yes Minister **7.30** The Last Goon Show Of All **8.30** Following Pappano **8.45** Small Island **9.00** Meet David Sedaris **9.30** Behind The Taverna **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Free Thinking **10.45** The Essay: The Little Secrets Of Great Works **11.00** The Waiting Game **11.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **12.00** Yes Minister **12.30** The Last Goon Show Of All **1.30** Following Pappano **1.45** Small Island **2.00** Hoax! **2.30** The Brothers **3.00** A Wizard Of Earthsea **4.00** Free Thinking **4.45** The Essay: The Little Secrets Of Great Works **5.00** The Waiting Game **5.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **6.00** Yes Minister **6.30** The Last Goon Show Of All **7.30** Following Pappano **7.45** Small Island **8.00** Hoax! **8.30** The Brothers **9.00** A Wizard Of Earthsea **10.00** Meet David Sedaris **10.30** And The Winner Is **11.00** All The World's A Globe **11.15** Foley And McColl — The Interview **11.30-12.00** Chain Reaction

LBC
7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Tom Swarbrick **7.00** Ali Miraj **10.00** Ben Kentish. Discussion **1.00** Richard Spurr **4.00** Ian Payne

RADIO 3
6.30 Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics. Georgia Mann plays a selection of music and features **1.00** Classical Live. Elizabeth Alker introduces highlights from the Proms, including music by Prokofiev, chamber performances from this year's Ryedale festival and Baroque music from Fribourg **4.00** Composer Of The Week **5.00** In Tune. With Tom Fetherstonhaugh **7.00** BBC Proms. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, London, the BBC NOW, conductor Elena Schwarz and Alina Ibragimova perform Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor; and Katy Hamilton joins Alexandra Humphreys to look ahead to the next week's worth of Proms **10.00** Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents an adventurous soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between **11.30** 'Round Midnight. Saxophonist Soweto Kinch presents the best in jazz, with a focus on the British scene **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM
6.30 Dan Walker **9.00** The Hall Of Fame Hour **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Zeb Soanes **9.00** Composer Carousel. Today's focus is Florence Price, the pioneering musician who in 1933 became the first African American woman to have a composition played by a major US orchestra **10.00** Ritula Shah **1.00** Bill Overton **4.00** Lucy Coward

RADIO 2
6.30 The Sara Cox Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** Joel Dommett **7.00** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Jazz Show With Jamie Cullum. The pianist and songwriter plays a selection of classic tracks and new music from the world of jazz **10.00** The Good Groove With Melvin Odoom. Sitting in for Spoony with soulful house, classic soul and disco **12.00** Connor Phillips **3.00** Sounds Of The 90s (R) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

VIRGIN RADIO
6.30 Steve Denyer On The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Emma B **2.00** Ben Jones **6.00** Geoff Lloyd **10.00** Jen Thomas **2.00** Stu Elmore

TALKSPORT
5.00 Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** Talksport Breakfast With Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White And Simon Jordan **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Talksport Drive **7.00** Kick Off. Debating all the big sporting issues **10.00** The Sports Bar. Reaction and analysis **1.00** Extra Time With Paul Ross

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
9.30 Animal Park Insights. (R)
10.15 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back Vehicle crime. (R)
10.45 Expert Witness (R)
11.15 Homes Under The Hammer Auctions. (R)
12.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Money For Nothing Sarah Moore tricks the eye by updating a display cabinet.
2.45 Escape To The Country Moving from the USA to the East Midlands. (R)
3.45 The Bidding Room A small package holding 400 years of fascinating history is revealed.
4.30 The Answer Run The teams have to distinguish Emmerdale from Coronation Street.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Konnie Huq. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 EastEnders Mark tries to win Lauren's attention; Sheila puts her plan into action; and Mo and Jean search for ways to ease their money troubles.
8.00 The Repair Shop Experts restore a pair of original seats from Arsenal's Highbury stadium, a broken locket from the Second World War, a shop ledger from 1909 and a chapel from a model village. (R)
9.00 Murder 24/7 The documentary follows police efforts to build a case against Matthew Jonathan for the murder — and the bloody footprint that provided a vital breakthrough. (2/2)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.40 CHOICE **You're Cordially Invited** Stars Will Ferrell and Reese Witherspoon. Two different wedding parties discover they have been accidentally booked on the same day at the same dream venue. (2025, 15; see Film choice)
12.25 The Hit List Music quiz. (R)
1.15-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather. **12.25** Scotcast. **12.55** The Hit List. Celebrity edition. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC 2

6.30 Money For Nothing (R)
7.15 The Bidding Room An intimate medical device is the oddest item ever seen on the show. (R)
8.00 Great Japanese Railway Journeys Michael Portillo travels to Honshu's Tohoku region. (Signed, R)
8.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo arrives in Mamoiada to investigate the town's pagan traditions. (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Headlines.
1.00 House Of Games With Sean Fletcher, Louise Minchin, Chris Washington and Kimberly Wyatt. (R)
1.30 The Finish Line Quiz, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene. (R)
2.15 Do You Know Your Place? Vernon Kay puts the spotlight onto his hometown of Bolton. (R)
2.45 The Hundred: Trent Rockets Women v Birmingham Phoenix Women. Live coverage of the match from Trent Bridge in Nottingham. **6.00 The Hundred:** Trent Rockets Men v Birmingham Phoenix Men. Further live action from Nottingham.
9.30 Live At The Apollo Ria Lina hosts the comedy show at London's Hammersmith Apollo, introducing stand-up routines by fellow comedians Lucy Beaumont and Josh Pugh. (R)
10.00 CHOICE **The Funeral Home Horror** Investigating how debt-ridden undertaker Robert Bush hoarded bodies, sold fake funeral plans and gave families the ashes of strangers. (See Critics' choice)
10.30 Newsnight Headlines.
11.05 Uncanny A look at the case of a student house believed to be haunted by a malevolent entity, which is one of the most unsettling cases Danny Robins has come across. (R)
12.05 The Devil In The Family — The Fall Of Ruby Franke Ruby starts to banish members of the family from their home. (R)
12.55-1.50 Amityville — An Origin Story Ronnie DeFeo Jr is accused of murder after his family is found shot dead. (Signed, R)

ITV 1

6.00 Good Morning Britain
10.00 This Morning Features.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
1.55 Regional News Headlines.
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and the team are in Oldham, where Simon Schneider looks at some candlesticks. (R)
3.00 Deal Or No Deal Game. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Game. (R)
5.00 The Chase Quiz show. (R)
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.30 Deal Or No Deal — Banker's Best Battles Stephen Mulhern presents.
8.00 Emmerdale A decision is made to give the dog a good Dingle send-off; and Charity is brave.
8.30 Coronation Street Lauren leaves Betsy to fend for herself; Kit informs Bethany of Gary's role in Sarah's crime; and Asha accompanies Sienna on a difficult mission.
9.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? Quiz hosted by Jeremy Clarkson, in which another line-up of contestants answer questions that could change their lives. (R)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.30 Regional News Headlines.
10.45 Long Lost Family — Born Without Trace Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell investigate the cases of foundlings dating back to 1983 and 1960. (R)
11.45 The Assembly The rapper Aitch is interviewed by a group of neurodivergent individuals. (R)
12.10 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 Love & Death (S1, ep 4, R)
3.50 Inside The Langham — Britain's First Grand Hotel Documentary. (R)
4.15 Unwind Daily relaxation.
5.35-6.00 Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy In Umbria. (R)

The Valleys (Sky Arts, 8pm)

Channel 4

6.30 The King Of Queens (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Sitcom. (R)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
12.05 News; Weather Reports.
12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.10 The Great House Giveaway Property. (R)
2.10 Countdown Game.
3.00 A Place In The Sun (R)
4.00 Saving Country Houses Sinkholes emerge around Elizabethan Pitchford Hall in Shropshire. (R)
5.00 Chateau DIY Owners disagree on the lighting for their converted wine barrel dining space. (R)
6.00 American Pickers Mike Wolfe makes a move on Gypsy Grandma, the queen of arcade games. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Extraordinary Extensions A couple who are turning their Surrey home into a Marbella-inspired party pad, complete with dance floor and pool house; and experimental Chinese timber architecture in southwest London.
9.00 CHOICE **The Undeclared War** Barbara is under Charlie's scrutiny as tragedy strikes GCHQ; Danny, Saara and Roz try to help Vadim escape; and Danny makes an earth-shattering discovery. (S2, ep 5) **10.00 The Undeclared War** Danny puts everything on the line in order to right some wrongs; and Roz and the team race against the clock to find out what the malware is searching for. (See Critics' choice; last in series)
11.00 24 Hours In A&E A man is rushed in after a motorbike accident leaving him with leg and lung injuries; and a 69-year-old, who has locked-in-syndrome, has trouble breathing. (R)
12.05 Celebrity Hunted (R)
1.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
2.40 Dictator — The Hitler Interviews Testimonies. (R)
3.30 Dover 24/7 — Britain's Busiest Port Insights. (R)
4.30 Grand Designs (R)
5.20 Love It Or List It — Brilliant Builds (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown (R)

5

6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Opinions.
12.45 News; Weather Reports.
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.15 A Town Called Murder Thriller, with Kayleigh Ruller. A couple break down on a road trip through the desert, and as they head to a nearby town, one of them suddenly goes missing. (R)
4.00 Castle An old school friend of Castle is murdered. (Series 7, ep 13, R)
4.55 Love Nature Insights. (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Majorca — A Year In The Sun Cameras focus on the chef Marc Fosh, who celebrates the best of Majorca's produce. (R)
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Car Pound Cops With access to car pounds, police forces, local council enforcement agencies and national organisations, cars are seized for a variety of offences. (R)
7.55 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts A former nurse is brought in with a suspected dislocated ankle; and paramedics rush in a 70-year-old with a dangerously low heart rate. (Last in series)
9.00 999 — Critical Condition A woman arrives potentially paralysed following a car crash; and a man needs a risky life-saving operation to remove a tumour that is located in the lining of his brain.
10.00 Ambulance — Code Red Paramedics respond to calls of a man who has collapsed in a hotel bathroom; and a head on collision between two motorcyclists. (R)
11.05 Cause Of Death Lancashire police investigate when the body of a man is found in a field, part of his ear is missing and he is laid on his wellington boots. (R)
12.05 A&E After Dark (R)
1.00 Teleshopping Goods. (R)
2.00 GPs — Behind Closed Doors Medical advice. (R)
2.50 Castle (Series 7, ep 13, R)
3.40 Friends US sitcom. (R)
4.35 The Highland Vet (R)
5.25 Entertainment News
5.35-6.00 Children's Shows

Variations

BBC1 WALES 8.00 Shift The Thrift **8.30** Our Lives: The Last Miner In The Band **10.40** Undercover — Cancer Cure Or Con? **11.00** FILM: You're Cordially Invited **12.45** The Hit List **1.30** BBC News **BBC SCOTLAND 7.00** Reporting Scotland **7.30** Scotland's Home Of The Year 2024 **8.00** Island Crossings **9.00** David Wilson's Crime Files **10.00** River City **10.30** Icons Of Football **11.00** Scotcast **11.30-12.00** Des Doesn't Do — Winter Sports

STV 6.00 Good Morning Britain **10.00** This Morning **1.30** News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal **3.00** Deal Or No Deal **4.00** Tipping Point **5.00** The Chase **6.00** STV News; Weather **6.30** News; Weather **7.30** Deal Or No Deal — Banker's Best Battles **8.00** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street **9.00** STV Player Presents: Coroner **10.00** News At Ten **10.45** Long Lost Family — Born Without Trace **11.45** The Assembly **12.10** Teleshopping **3.00** Love & Death **3.50** Inside The Langham — Britain's First Grand Hotel **4.15** Unwind **5.35-6.00** Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy **S4C 6.00** Cyw **8.30** Pablo **8.45** Kim A Cet A Twrch **9.00** Guto Gwningen **9.15** Abadas **9.25** Ein Byd Bach Ni **9.35** Pentre Papur Pop **9.45** Ne-wff-ion **10.00** Blociau Rhif **10.05** Crawc A'i Ffrindiau **10.15** Deian A Loli **10.30** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **12.00** News **12.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **2.00** News **2.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **7.30** News **7.50** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **9.30** Pawb A'i Farn **10.30** Y Babell Len **11.00-12.05** Ty Ffit

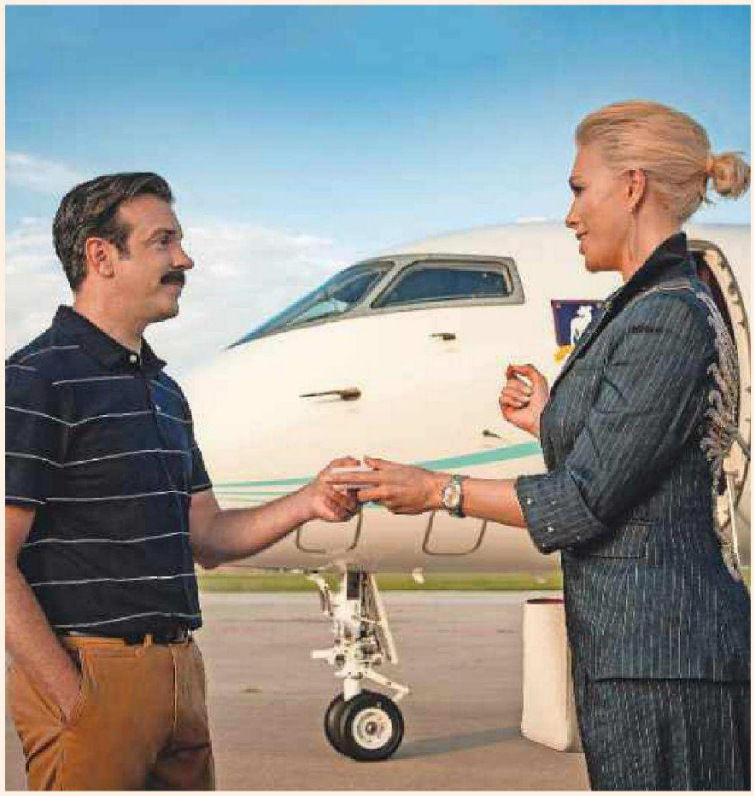
You say

Ann Droid (BBC1) is superb. Funny and sad, its accurate portrayal of the loneliness of old age after the loss of a partner and family tensions is beautifully done and the acting of the "robots" is a masterclass in observation and muscle control, though God forbid that we ever have robots as "lifelike" as Linda, Keith and Roxy.
Peter Sergeant

Can we expect to see Alison Hammond reading the news soon? Talk about overexposure.
Richard Allison
Send your comments to telly@sunday-times.co.uk

Critics' choice

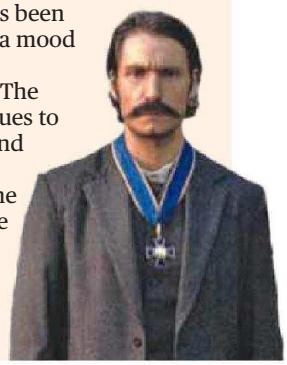
Ted Lasso (Apple TV)
Fans of this football comedy had every reason to believe that the last episode of its third season marked a final whistle. Three years later, it is making a surprise return after its star and writer, Jason Sudeikis, decided that the story deserved another shot. As the reprieve begins, Ted (Sudeikis) is living a normcore life in Kansas, trying to spend more time with his son Henry, but when the AFC Richmond faces Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham), Leslie (Jeremy Swift) and Keeley (Juno Temple) turn up on his doorstep demanding a barbecue, Ted's plans are derailed and he finds himself contemplating a return to the UK to coach the women's team. With new cast members including Tanya Reynolds and Faye Marsay and more proof of the writers' ability to hit the sentiment button just enough, it's the perfect antidote to the post-World Cup lull. *Victoria Segal*



Jason Sudeikis and Hannah Waddingham as Ted and Rebecca

In a town where the past is ever-present

One Hundred Years of Solitude (Netflix)
Picking up where season one left off, with the death of José Arcadio Buendía (Diego Vásquez) and Colonel Aureliano Buendía (Claudio Cataño, *below*) saved from death-by-firing-squad, this second and final part of this epic, Spanish-language adaptation of Gabriel García Márquez's 1967 magical realist masterpiece continues at the same stately pace. The muggy opulence has been replaced by a mood of desolate valediction. The show continues to be strange and unsettling, reworking the clichés of the family saga in many subtle ways. *AM*



Mary Beard Remembers... Ultimate Rome — Empire Without Limit (BBC4, from 8.55pm)
In 2016 Mary Beard presented *Ultimate Rome: Empire Without Limit*, a series that set out to ask how "a piddling little cattle town in central Italy" became an imperial mega-power. Here, the classicist shares her memories of working on the series, discussing how she wanted to underline the diversity and geographical reach of the Roman Empire. The first episode is repeated tonight at 9.10pm, exploring Rome's earliest origins as a place of asylum for exiles and outsiders, before Beard heads to Greece and France. First, though, hear her reminisce about filming the show in various locations, recalling terrible weather, an embarrassing attempt at reading an inscription lying down outside Seville Cathedral, and the historical use of pizza. *VS*

The Undeclared War (C4, from 9pm)
The espionage drama climaxes with a double bill – Danny (Simon Pegg) experiences a series of bombshells, while his wife, Barbara (Siân Brooke), is interrogated as a possible mole. This looks likely to be the show's final bow, and perhaps it would have made more sense (given the undramatic nature of GCHQ work) to exploit Pegg's talent for tomfoolery and make it more serio-comical, like *Slow Horses* with malware.

Mary Beard (BBC4, 8.55pm)

The Funeral Home Horror (BBC2, 10pm)
A report by Linsey Smith, part of the BBC's *The Big Cases* strand about "the crimes that made headlines and the investigations that uncovered the truth". It's the eye-popping story of Robert Bush, a debt-ridden undertaker in Hull who for years got away with hoarding dead bodies and giving the wrong ashes to grieving families, until Humberside police investigated and gained a guilty verdict at his trial in April.

Voices of the Valleys (Sky Arts/Now, 8pm)
After its fine series on Scottish pipers and Irish hoofers, Sky devotes a three-parter to Welsh male voice choirs (let's hope Morris dancers won't represent England). It divides its attention between three choirs, in north, south and mid-Wales. *John Dugdale*

Film choice

The Illusionist (Sky Cinema Drama, 6.05pm)
Edward Norton stars as the 19th-century illusionist Eisenheim, who meets his childhood sweetheart (Jessica Biel) after 15 years and wins back her heart. The snag is that she is betrothed to the Crown Prince Leopold (Rufus Sewell). Centred around tricks, the film is full of smoke and mirrors, and never sags. (2006)

Speed (Film4, 9pm)
The premise of this thriller is simple: Keanu Reeves is Jack Traven, a Swat officer who incurs the wrath of Dennis Hopper's extortionist, Howard Payne, who uses rigged explosives to demand a ransom. After his latest plot is foiled, Payne presents Traven with a city bus wired to blow if the speedometer drops below 50mph. Behind the wheel is Annie Porter (Sandra Bullock), a passenger on the doomed bus. (1991)

You're Cordially Invited (BBC1, 10.40pm)
The writer-director Nicholas Stoller has taken an exhausted genre (the wedding comedy) and brought the whole thing to vivid, side-splitting life. Reese Witherspoon and Will Ferrell play the antagonists of a weekend wedding nightmare that occurs when two fraught nuptials are accidentally booked for the same date, on the same tiny, alligator-infested island. (2024)

On demand

● **The Ninth Jedi (Disney+)**
Set generations after the fall of the Empire and the Rebel Alliance, in an era when the Jedi have faded into legend, this expertly animated Star Wars animé by the Japanese animation studio Production IG is essentially a story of insurgency and armed resistance. It is centred around a rebel group of trainee Jedis seeking to reforge the lightsaber weapons of legend and rise up against a new militarist era of Sith rule. Gorgeous to look at, punctuated with thrilling moments of rebellion, this suggests that animation may well be the best way forward for the struggling *Star Wars* franchise.

● **Sterling Point (Prime Video)**
If you are a fan of *Hart of Dixie*, *My Life with the Walter Boys* or any of those amiable series in which a big city-type finds themselves out-of-depth in small-town North America... well, guess what? Devised by the writer-director Megan Park with the *OC* creators Josh Schwartz and Stephanie Savage, this teen drama stars Ella Rubin as Annie Jacobson. Her life takes a turn when she inherits her mysterious late grandfather's island in Canada. Part young adult mystery, part romantic drama, it overcomes the familiar thanks to a dry knowing wit and some excellent teen performances. *Andrew Male*

BBC 3

7.00pm The Catch Up Updates.
7.05 Deadly 60 Searching for the world's fastest fish. **7.30 Deadly 60** Blacktip sharks in South Africa.
8.00 Top Gear A focus on the Lotus T125. **9.00 Top Gear** A trip across Australia's Northern Territory.
10.00 Guy Mont-Spelling Bee New run. Hannah Gadsby and Lloyd Langford join comedians taking on the spelling test. **10.50 Guy Mont-Spelling Bee** Gameshow hosted by Guy Montgomery.
11.40 Dinosaur Triple bill of the comedy series.
1.00 Jesy Nelson — Odd One Out Documentary.
2.00 James Arthur — Out Of Our Minds (R)
3.00-4.00 Zara McDermott — Disordered Eating

BBC 4

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Exploring York.
7.30 Wainwright Walks Scaling the demanding mountain Blencathra.
8.00 The Treasures Of Ancient Rome How the Romans' obsession with sex and violence reflects in their art.
8.55 CHOICE Mary Beard Remembers ... Ultimate Rome — Empire Without Limit (See Critics' choice)
9.10 Ultimate Rome — Empire Without Limit Exploring the myths and revolutions of the Roman Empire.
10.10 I, Claudius A marriage is arranged for Claudius. (3/12) **11.05 I, Claudius** Postumus is pardoned.
11.55 As 8pm
12.55 Wainwright Walks
1.55 As 9.10pm
2.55-3.25 As 7pm

ITV 2

6.00pm Catchphrase With Matt Dawson, Stacey Dooley and Antony Cotton.
7.00 The Floor USA Rob Lowe hosts the American version of the dramatic and fast-paced gameshow.
8.00 The 1% Club Quiz hosted by Lee Mack, in which the questions are all about logic and common sense.
9.00 Family Guy Brian and Stewie visit alternative universes. (Series 8, ep 1) **9.30 Family Guy** Lois discovers she is Jewish. **10.00 Family Guy** Peter campaigns for immigration rights. (Series 6, ep 6) **10.30 Family Guy** Brian's new girlfriend leaves him. (S7, ep 1) **11.05 Family Guy** Peter becomes obsessed with a hit song from 1963.
11.35-12.05 American Dad!

ITV 3

5.50pm Heartbeat Sergeant Merton is suspended after allegations of theft made by a woman he was dating. **6.55 Heartbeat** The bobbies of Aidensfield try to get to the bottom of a series of strange burglaries.
8.00 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. A land dispute leads to murder during a cowboy fair run by the Wild West Society of a Midsomer village.
10.00 Grantchester A student from a prestigious all-female college is found dead. (Series 5, ep 1) **11.00 Grantchester** Will and Leonard witness a deadly and deliberate hit-and-run.
11.50-12.50 Trial & Retribution When a schoolteacher is found dead, her boyfriend is arrested. (Series 10, ep 5)

E4

6.00pm The Simpsons Homer is given free plane tickets.
6.30 Hollyoaks Chester soap.
7.30 The Simpsons Marge and Lisa meet a stage star while visiting Capital City.
8.00 Vanderpump Rules New host Angelica catches Jason's eye at the annual SUR photoshoot; Venus confronts Marcus and Kim about their relationship; and Natalie and Shayne go on their first date.
9.00 Gogglebox Including opinions on I'm a Celebrity, The Great British Bake Off, Family Fortunes, The Crown and Mammals. **10.00 Gogglebox** The Crown, I'm a Celebrity and You Won't Believe This are appraised by the viewers.
11.05-12.05 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson hosts.

U&Drama

6.00pm Last Of The Summer Wine The trio look for a piano. **6.40 Last Of The Summer Wine** The pals embark on a business venture. **7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine** Compo has a chance to impress Nora.
8.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries When Radio Catherine's top DJ is murdered on-air, the sleuth is called in to investigate. (S2, ep 8)
9.00 The Chelsea Detective Emma denies murdering her father. (Series 2, ep 6)
10.00 New Tricks The squad reopens the investigation into the disappearance of a political activist. (S6, ep 6)
11.20-12.40 Luther The search for a woman abducted by a writer of the occult, suspected of a murder 10 years previously. (S1, ep 3)

Sky Arts

6.00pm Tales Of The Unexpected Double bill.
7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Services Rendered. A man has amnesia after being hit on the head. **7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents:** Right Kind Of Medicine. A wounded killer tries to get a prescription for painkillers.
8.00 CHOICE Voices Of The Valleys New series following three male voice choirs from Wales as they prepare for a key event in their choral calendar. (1/3; see Critics' choice)
9.00 Bryn Terfel — Celtic Beethoven Arrangements of Beethoven's Scottish, Irish and Welsh folk songs.
10.25-12.25 Riverdance 25th Anniversary Show A dance performance.

Sky One

6.00pm Animal Control The team must scour the city to fill the kennel in time. (Series 3, ep 10, R) **6.30 Animal Control** Budget cuts force the precincts to merge. (Series 4, ep 1, R)
7.00 The Simpsons With the voice of Tracey Ullman. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** Homer plays matchmaker for Marge's sister. (R)
8.00 A League Of Their Own — The Rally The team head through rural France to the Alps. (2/3, R)
9.00 FILM: Terminator 2 — Judgment Day Stars Arnold Schwarzenegger. A cyborg is sent to protect the future saviour of the human race. A sci-fi action masterclass. (1991, 15) (R)
11.30-12.00 Animal Control (R)

Sky Atlantic

5.45pm Heated Rivalry Ilya lets his guard down, sending Shane into a panic. (4/6)
6.50 The Penguin In the wake of the death of his boss, Oz Cobb tries to legitimise himself within Gotham's criminal underworld. (1/8) **7.55 The Penguin** Oz sets out to play both the Falcone and Maroni families to his advantage.
9.00 House Of The Dragon Game of Thrones prequel following the story of House Targaryen, with Matt Smith. (S3, ep 7)
10.15 Station Eleven Miranda reflects on the cost of her relationships with Arthur and Dr Eleven. (3/10) **11.15-12.15 Station Eleven** Kirsten nudges the Traveling Symphony off-course.

TPTV

4.20pm FILM: The Bells Go Down Stars Tommy Trinder. (1943, U, B/W)
6.10 So This Is London Insights.
6.30 Give Us A Clue Game.
7.00 Out Of Town A 100-year-old angler tries to catch a fish on his birthday.
7.30 Travelling Man Lomax is closing in on the man who framed him.
8.35 An Englishman Abroad Drama, with Alan Bates. An actress travels to Moscow and meets a notorious spy.
9.50 FILM: From Here To Eternity Stars Burt Lancaster. American military personnel are caught up in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Soulful drama. (1953, PG, B/W; ends at **12.10**)

Films

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00pm Mortal Kombat II (2026, 15) **8.00** Normal. A temporary small-town law enforcer uncovers dark mysteries after a local bank robbery. (2026, 15) **9.40** Heretic. Two young missionaries are forced to prove their faith when they knock on the wrong door. (2024, 15) **11.40-1.15** Anaconda (2025, 12)

SKY CINEMA THRILLER

6.00pm The Bourne Identity. An amnesiac man is targeted by assassins as he tries to discover who he is. (2002, 12) **8.00** Red Dragon. An FBI agent seeks the imprisoned killer Hannibal Lecter's help to catch a serial killer. (2002, 15) **10.05-12.20** Seven. Cops hunt down a sadistic killer. (1995, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS

4.05pm Legends Of The Fall (1994, 15) **6.20** Cat Ballou (1965, PG) **8.00** True Grit. A marshal reluctantly agrees to help a teenage girl track down her father's killer. (1969, PG) **10.10-12.15** Birdy. A war veteran believes he has wings. (1984, 15)

SKY CINEMA SELECT

5.35pm Shaun The Sheep Movie (2015, U) **7.05** A Shaun The Sheep Movie — Farmageddon (2019, U) **8.35** Hotel Transylvania (2012, U) **10.10** Hotel Transylvania 2. Dracula teaches his grandson how to become a monster. (2015, U) **11.45-1.25** Hotel Transylvania 3 — A Monster Vacation (2018, U)

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

3.30pm Empire Of The Sun (1987, PG) **6.05 CHOICE** The Illusionist (2006, PG; see Film choice) **8.00** Valentine's Day. Anthology of stories charting the romantic complications of various residents in LA. (2010, 12) **10.15-12.45** A Star Is Born. A fading musician falls in love with a rising star. (2018, 15)

FILM4

4.35pm Heaven Knows, Mr Allison (1957, PG) **6.40** Steel Magnolias. The changing fortunes in the lives of six female friends in America's Deep South. (1989, PG) **9.00 CHOICE** Speed. A cop tries to save the passengers on a bus that will explode if it goes below 50mph. (1994, 15; see Film choice) **11.15-2.00** Ambulance (2022, 15)

Entertainment

ITV4

5.55pm Minder **7.00** Aussie Pickers **8.00** Beat The Chasers — Celebrity Special **9.00** FILM: RoboCop **11.05** All Elite Wrestling — Collision **1.05** Minder **2.00-3.00** The Professionals

MORE4

5.50pm Car SOS **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** The Roman Empire By Train **10.00** 24 Hours In Police Custody: The Butcher Of Suburbia **12.10** 999 — On The Front Line **1.15-2.20** 24 Hours In Police Custody: The Butcher Of Suburbia

U&GOLD

5.40pm Last Of The Summer Wine **6.20** Keeping Up Appearances **7.00** Only Fools And Horses **7.45** Dad's Army **8.25** Are You Being Served? **9.00** The Office **9.40** Porridge **10.20** Not Going Out **11.00** Mrs Brown's Boys **11.35** The Green Green Grass **12.15** The Office **1.00** Porridge **1.35-2.15** Not Going Out

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm Will & Grace **7.00** The US Office **8.00** The Reluctant Landlord **9.00** Last Week Tonight. Talk show **9.45** Ellie Taylor **10.45** Hacks **12.05** Hitmen **1.05-2.05** Community

5 STAR

6.00pm Home And Away **7.00** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts **8.00** GPs — Behind Closed Doors **9.00** FILM: Crocodile Dundee II **11.20** FILM: Total Recall. Stars Arnold Schwarzenegger. Sci-fi thriller **1.40-2.35** Cold Case Killers

5 USA

6.00pm NCIS **9.00** Jesse Stone: Benefit Of The Doubt **10.05** Jesse Stone: Benefit Of The Doubt. Detective thriller. **10.55-3.35** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Nothing To Declare **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **9.00** Fire Country **10.00** FBI: International. Detective drama **11.00** The Rookie **12.00** FBI **2.00-3.00** CIA. Drama

U&W

6.00pm DIY SOS — The Big Build **7.00** MasterChef Australia **8.25** Anton Danyluk On Body Shame **9.00** Signora Volpe **11.00** First Responders **1.00** One Born — What Happened Next? **1.50-3.00** Inside The Ambulance. Documentary

COMEDY CENTRAL

5.55pm Friends **9.00** Michael McIntyre's Big Show **10.00** 8 Out Of 10 Cats **11.40** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **12.40** Gods Of The Game **1.10-1.40** The Comedy Bus

U&YESTERDAY

6.00pm Antiques Roadshow **7.00** The Green Planet **8.00** Michael Palin — Travels Of A Lifetime **9.00** Simon Reeve's South America **10.00-1.00** Bangers & Cash

U&DAVE

6.00pm Hairy Bikers' Best Of British **7.00** Mortimer & Whitehouse — Gone Fishing **7.40** Would I Lie To You? **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40-2.00** Would I Lie To You?

Factual

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6.00pm Secret Nazi Science **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Lost Treasures Of Ancient Greece **9.00** Drain The Oceans **10.00** Mysteries Of Ancient Medicine **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Border Protection Spain **1.00-2.00** Catch A Smuggler

5 Great shows on C4 streaming

1 Skins (2007-13)
The highs and lows of the lives of teenage friends in Bristol are explored in a show that launched the careers of Nicholas Hoult, Kaya Scodelario, Joe Dempsie, Dev Patel and more.

2 Ray Donovan (2013-20)
A gritty noir drama with Liev Schreiber as a Los Angeles fixer for the rich and famous.

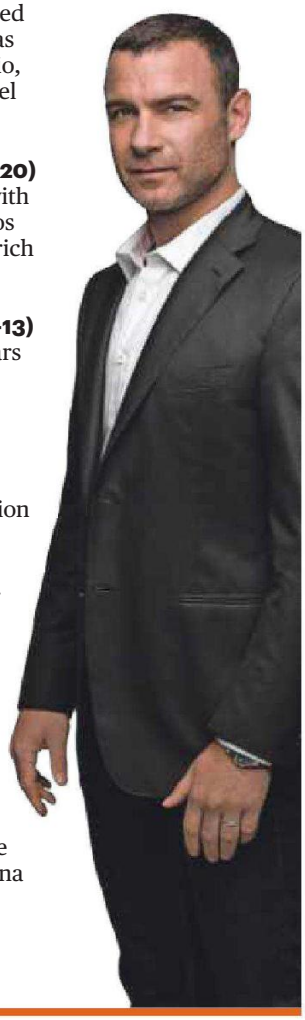
3 Whitechapel (2009-13)
This crime thriller stars Rupert Penry-Jones, Phil Davis and Steve Pemberton.

4 Humans (2015-18)
A chilling science fiction tale where lifelike humanoids called Synths live among us.

5 This Way Up (2019-21)
A Bafta-winning comedy-drama starring Aisling Bea as Aine, a teacher trying to put her life back together after a breakdown – with the help of her sister Shona (Sharon Horgan).

Tim Glanfield

Liev Schreiber as the Hollywood fixer Ray Donovan



DISCOVERY
5.00pm Alaska — Homestead Rescue **7.00** Ant Anstead Master Mechanic **9.00** Jaws Vs Orca **10.00** Jurassic Sharks **11.00** The Alaska Triangle **12.00** Deadliest Catch **1.00-2.00** Jaws Vs. Orca

PBS AMERICA
5.50pm Hitler's Gold **6.50** Conquistadors — Rise And Fall **7.50** Pirates **8.50** Iron Curtain — Living Under Soviet Occupation **10.00** Hitler's Gold **11.00-12.00** Pirates

SKY DOCUMENTARIES
5.55pm JFK — Destiny Betrayed **7.00** Alien Autopsy Scandal **8.00** Blur — To The End **10.00** Groomed — The Truth Behind The Lie **11.00-12.00** Murder At The Post Office

SKY NATURE
6.00pm Big Cat Country **7.00** Monkey Life **8.00** Big Cat Country **9.00** Chasing Rains **10.00** Big Cat Country **11.00-12.00** Dawn To Dusk

DISCOVERY HISTORY
7.00pm How The Universe Works **8.00** World's Deepest Goldmine **9.00** Unexplained And Unexplored **10.00** How Do They Do It? **11.00-12.00** Combat Dealers

Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT
6.00am News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **9.00** Good Morning Transfers **10.00** Sky Sports FC **11.30** LIVE The Hundred: Manchester Super Giants Women v Welsh Fire Women **2.30** LIVE The Hundred: Manchester Super Giants Men v Welsh Fire Men **6.00** LIVE The Hundred: Trent Rockets Men v Birmingham Phoenix Men **9.30** LIVE Tennis **4.00-6.00** News

TNT SPORTS 1
6.00am WRC Review **7.00** Men's Cycling World Tour **8.00** Tour De France Women **9.00** Test Cricket Highlights **10.00** PL Stories **10.30** Uefa Champions League Goals Reload **10.45** Inside The Game **11.00** British Superbikes Rewind **11.15** The Gruppetto **11.30** Tour De France Women **12.30** LIVE Tour De France Women. Coverage from the fifth stage **5.45** PL Stories **6.15** MLB **7.15** LIVE MLB **10.00** MLB Plays Of The Week **10.30** Reload **11.00** MLB Highlights **12.00** LIVE MLB **3.00** MLB Plays Of The Week **3.30-6.30** LIVE World Series Of Poker

Radio & Podcasts

● BBC Proms (Radio 3, 8.10pm)
A double bill begins with a concert recorded in Middlesbrough that is part of the *Proms Across the UK* series. Featured are the Unthanks and their guests English Teacher, Conor J O'Brien and Jodie Nicholson, accompanied by the Royal Northern Sinfonia conducted by Ellie Slorach. At 10.15pm is the live *Prom Under African Skies: The Songs of Graceland*, marking the 40th anniversary of Paul Simon's influential album. His collaborators on the album, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, perform with the Nu Civilisation Orchestra and the director Peter Edwards.

The Unthanks feature in tonight's Proms line-up

● The Ocean Within Us (Radio 4, 3.30pm)
If we know one pub quiz answer, it's often that the human body is made of about three fifths water. So where is it stored? Emily Knight looks beyond the obvious places (blood, cells, the lymphatic system) to discover that the gaps between our organs, bones and joints – the "interstitial spaces" – are full of a gel-like liquid.

● Dan Snow's History Hit (podcast)
In two episodes this week (the second is released tomorrow), the presenter journeys to the remote jungles of Belize to uncover the secrets of the Mayan civilisation, which developed sophisticated writing and agriculture systems, built great cities and mapped the night sky. Yet at the height of its power the advanced culture collapsed, with all the Mayans had developed being abandoned and taken over by nature.
Clair Woodward

TIMES RADIO
5.00 James Kitchin With Early Breakfast **6.00** Kate McCann And Stig Abell With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Ed Vaizey **1.00** The Times At One: With Sebastian Payne **2.00** Jane Garvey And Fi Glover **4.00** John Pienaar With Times Radio Drive **7.00** The Evening Edition With Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00** The Best Of Times Radio

To get in touch with the Times Radio studio, text TIMES plus your message to 87222. Texts cost your standard message charge.

RADIO 4
5.00 News **5.04** Inside Science (R) **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **6.00** Today **9.00** Sideways. Matthew Syed explores why positivity is often the default response to difficult news **9.30** Breakin' The Cycle **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** A Romanian Ransom. A secret Cold War trade of animals in exchange for Jewish lives (R) **11.40** This Week In History **11.45** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away. Disputes over inheritance (R) **12.00** News **12.04** You And Yours **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Bare Necessities. The construction of houses on stilts in Perthshire, based on an ancient design **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: United Kingdoms (R) **3.00** Precious Stones (R) **3.30** The Ocean Within Us. Emily Knight explores why the human body contains so much water **4.00** The Power Of Guilt (R) **4.15** The Media Show **5.00** PM **6.00** News **6.30** Best Medicine **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** AntiSocial (R) **8.45** Cafe Hope (R) **9.00** Invisible Hands (R) **9.30** Inside Health (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime **11.00** Sunil Patel — An Idiot's Guide To Living Forever **11.15** Follow The Rabbit (R) **11.30** Hollywood And The Adland Five **12.00** News **12.30** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
5.00 A Wizard Of Earthsea **6.00** The Waiting Game **6.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **7.00** After Henry **7.30** Hancock's Half Hour **8.00** Bridget Christie: Mortal **8.30** Following Pappano **8.45** Small Island **9.00** Best Medicine **9.30** Behind The Taverna **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Sound Of Cinema **11.00** The Waiting Game **11.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **12.00** After Henry **12.30** Hancock's Half Hour **1.00** Bridget Christie — Mortal **1.30** Following Pappano **1.45** Small Island **2.00** The Ultimate Choice **2.30** Getting Nowhere Fast **3.00** A Wizard Of Earthsea **4.00** Sound Of Cinema **5.00** The Waiting Game **5.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **6.00** After Henry **6.30** Hancock's Half Hour **7.00** Bridget Christie: Mortal **7.30** Following Pappano **7.45** Small Island **8.00** The Ultimate Choice **8.30** Getting Nowhere Fast **9.00** A Wizard Of Earthsea **10.00** Best Medicine **10.30** Mitch Benn's Crimes Against Music **11.00** Dave Podmore's Cricket Night **11.30-12.00** Dial M For Pizza

LBC
7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Aasmah Mir **4.00** Tom Swarbrick **7.00** Iain Dale. Debate **10.00** Ben Kentish. Discussion **1.00** Richard Spurr **4.00** Ian Payne

RADIO 3
6.30 Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00** Classical Live. Elizabeth Alker introduces highlights from the Proms, including Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D and Scriabin's Symphony No 2 in C minor **3.00** Choral Evensong. From St James's Picadilly, London, with Genesis Sixteen, with music by Lassus and Eoghan Desmond, and Robert Quinney is the organist **4.00** Composer Of The Week **5.00** In Tune. Music, arts news and guests **6.00** BBC Proms. Live at the Royal Albert Hall, London, Kahchun Wong conducts the Halle in Ravel and Rachmaninov with the pianist Alexandra Dariescu joining them for Nadia Boulanger's Fantasy for piano **8.10** BBC Proms. Recorded at Middlesbrough Town Hall, the Unthanks and friends English Teacher, Conor J O'Brien and Jodie Nicholson, perform with Royal Northern Sinfonia, under the conductor Ellie Slorach **10.15** BBC Proms. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, London, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Nu Civilisation Orchestra, under director Peter Edwards, celebrate 40 years of Paul Simon's Graceland album **11.45** 'Round Midnight. Soweto Kinch presents the best in jazz, with a particular focus on the British scene **12.30** Through The Night. Featuring John Williams's Star Wars Suite and Caroline Shaw's The Observatory

CLASSIC FM
6.30 Dan Walker **9.00** The Hall Of Fame Hour **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Zeb Soanes **9.00** Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00** Bill Overton **4.00** Lucy Coward

RADIO 2
6.30 The Sara Cox Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** Joel Dommett **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Folk Show. With the Irish duo Absolute Lilt **10.00** The Good Groove With Melvin Odoom **12.00** Connor Phillips **3.00** Dance Sounds Of The 90s With Vernon Kay (R) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

VIRGIN RADIO
6.30 Steve Denyer On The Chris Evans Breakfast Show With Moneybox **10.00** Emma B **2.00** Ben Jones **6.00** Geoff Lloyd **10.00** Goldierocks **2.00** Stu Elmore

TALKSPORT
5.00 Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast With Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White And Simon Jordan **1.00** Max Rushden & Charlie Baker **4.00** Drive **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** The Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
9.30 Animal Park Wildlife. (R)
10.15 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back Vehicle recovery specialists track down a stolen caravan. (R)
10.45 Expert Witness Experts in DNA and fibre analysis provide evidence to convict a killer in Bristol. (R)
11.15 Homes Under The Hammer Auctions.
12.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 Money For Nothing Blacksmith Kev Paxton tackles a rusty water tank.
2.45 Escape To The Country A couple from Manchester look for a new home in West Yorkshire. (R)
3.45 The Bidding Room Dealers make bids for a football game and a Noh mask. (R)
4.30 The Answer Run Quiz.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 EastEnders Sheila faces mounting pressure; Priya is confronted with some hard truths; and Mark clashes with Max over Lauren.
8.00 Fake Or Fortune? The art detectives are in Somerset, where 15 unsigned prints of Lucian Freud's etching Girl with Fig Leaf have been discovered in a garage. (Last in series)
9.00 CHOICE **Who Do You Think You Are?** The heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson travels to the Bahamas and Miami in search of her ancestry, discovering tales of courage and resilience. (See Critics' choice; last in series)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.40 Murder 24/7 The first of a two-part investigation into the 2025 murder of 54-year-old Hereford man Jamie Gawler, found in his flat having being beaten to death. (R) **11.40 Murder 24/7** Police struggle to build a case — until a bloody footprint is found. (R)
12.40 Alan Carr's Picture Slam Gameshow. (R)
1.30-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland. **7.00** River City. **12.40** Scotcast. **1.10** Alan Carr's Picture Slam. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC 2

6.15 Homes Under The Hammer Auctions. (R)
7.15 Money For Nothing (R)
8.00 Gardeners' World Monty Don refreshes his borders with late-summer perennials. (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Headlines.
1.00 House Of Games (R)
1.30 The Finish Line (R)
2.15 Do You Know Your Place? Questions on Jedburgh. (R)
2.45 The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation In France. (R)
3.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R)
4.30 Vintage Antiques Roadshow In Toronto. (R)
5.15 Flog It! Selling items. (R)
6.00 House Of Games With guests Gethin Jones, Tiff Stevenson, Kate Thornton and Gary Wilmot. (R)
7.00 Escape To The Country A pair of budding entrepreneurs seek a move to the Cotswolds. (R)
8.00 Digging For Britain Archaeological treasures in the west of Britain, including a rare medieval cemetery, a disappearing Mesolithic landscape and the ruins of a gothic masterpiece. (R)
9.00 The Devil In The Family — The Fall Of Ruby Franke With the Franke family isolated, people on the outside try to find out what is happening, and the reality is worse than anyone imagined. (Last in series)
9.50 The Fens — A Wild Year The patchwork of ancient wetlands and fertile farmland that make up the fens of East Anglia. (R)
10.00 Inside No 9 Detective inspector Katrina is determined to crack the case of a missing boy, while also battling her inner demons. (S7, ep 3, R)
10.30 Newsnight Headlines.
11.05 CHOICE **Women Talking** Stars Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, Jessie Buckley and Judith Ivey. The women of an isolated religious community grapple with reconciling a brutal reality with their faith. (2022, 15; see Film choice)
12.40 Ambulance A young patient is reported to be having a seizure in a West Yorkshire forest. (Signed, R)
1.40-2.40 Evolution (Signed, R)

ITV 1

6.00 Good Morning Britain
10.00 This Morning Features.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
1.55 Regional News Headlines.
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his team are in Sheffield, where Tracy Thackray-Howitt splashes some cash. (R)
3.00 Deal Or No Deal Game. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Game. (R)
5.00 The Chase Quiz show. (R)
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.30 Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy The chef learns how farmers produce tomatoes for passata, and later heads south to cook lamb with pomegranate couscous.
8.00 Emmerdale Charity takes big steps; and the Dingles unite in their grief at Monty's funeral.
8.30 Coronation Street Kit extends an ominous invitation to Gary; Tim gets reacquainted with his cousin Richie; Lauren offers Betsy an apology; and Fiz lets Ross know that she misses Cassie.
9.00 The Chase Around The World The teams land in Paris to take on the Vixen and the Beast, who have set a series of quiz questions that the players must solve to find Bradley Walsh at the finish line.
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.30 Regional News Headlines.
10.45 FILM: Casino Royale Stars Daniel Craig, Eva Green and Judi Dench. James Bond pursues a criminal responsible for financing terrorist organisations across the world. Celebrated spy thriller. (2006, 15)
1.10 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 The Summit (R)
3.50 Unwind Daily relaxation.
5.05-6.00 Deal Or No Deal (R)

Johnson-Thompson (BBC1, 9pm)

Channel 4

6.30 The King Of Queens (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Sitcom. (R)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
12.05 News; Weather Reports.
12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.10 The Great House Giveaway Property. (R)
2.10 Countdown Game.
3.00 A Place In The Sun (R)
4.00 Saving Country Houses Rescuing a derelict and overgrown pond. (R)
5.00 Chateau DIY (R)
6.00 American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz come across a 200,000-square-foot factory. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Renovation Rescue In West Sussex, Vogue Williams and Luke Mabbott help to salvage an artist's dream of a retirement near family, by the sea.
9.00 Murder Case — The Digital Detectives How detectives used digital forensics to uncover the events of the night 19-year-old Matthew Daulby was fatally stabbed after a street fight in Ormskirk in July 2023.
10.00 The Body Detectives The work of an organisation dedicated to revisiting forgotten cases, beginning with the disappearance of a man off the Norfolk coast in 1984 while on a family holiday. (R)
11.05 Social Media Monsters Investigating the murder of 15-year-old Holly Newton, whose social-media accounts were hacked by her ex-boyfriend who used them to track her movements, find her and stab her over 30 times. (R)
12.05 Crime Scene Cleaners In Buckinghamshire, a man is found dead in disturbing circumstances. (R)
1.00 Murder Case — The Digital Detectives The killing of a woman in Hampshire in 2022. (R)
1.55 Ramsay's Hotel Hell (R)
2.45 The Undeclared War Double bill. (Last in series, R)
4.30 Love It Or List It — Brilliant Builds (R)
4.55 Couples Come Dine With Me Parties in Plymouth. (R)
5.50-6.30 Countdown (R)

5

6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion.
12.45 News; Weather Reports.
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.20 Evil In A Small Town Thriller, with Veronica Ramirez. When her parents go missing on vacation, a teenager must find them — but she may be trusting the wrong people. (R)
4.00 Castle A murder case is linked to serial killer Jerry Tyson. (Series 7, ep 14, R)
4.55 Love Nature (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Menorca — A Year In The Sun A profile of the Mediterranean island. (R)
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Around The World In First Class Josie Gibson flies upper class to Grenada, and explores a boutique resort called 473, a private suite of villas by the sea.
7.55 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Cornwall — A Year By The Sea At Watergate Bay, Michelin-starred chef Chris Eden and his team try their first beach feast of the summer. (Last in series)
9.00 Benidorm Is Murder At the Laughter Lounge, Frank Mann hosts faded gameshow star Vince Starky, whose comeback could save debt-ridden owner Ziggy; and when doorman Paco finds a corpse, Dennis uncovers suspicious clues and Rosa unearths grudges, debts and secrets. (2/6)
10.00 Killer At The Crime Scene In a Silicon Valley home invasion, a millionaire is murdered, but with no forced entry, investigators suspect an inside job. (R)
11.00 Murdered At First Sight Investigating the case of Jorge Rodriguez, a father of three and soon-to-be grandfather, who was shot while in his car and later died in hospital. (R)
12.05 Street Cops — Catching The Yobs Insights. (R)
1.00 Teleshopping Goods. (R)
2.00 GPs — Behind Closed Doors Advice. (R)
2.50 Castle (Series 7, ep 14, R)
3.40 Friends US sitcom. (R)
4.35 The Highland Vet (R)
5.25 Entertainment News
5.35-6.00 Children's Shows

Variations

BBC SCOTLAND 7.00 News **7.30** Hidden Lives **8.00** Beechgrove Garden **8.30** Scotland's Greatest Escape **9.00** Granite Harbour **10.00** Scot Squad **10.30** Cumming To The Cabaret! **11.15** Scotcast **11.45-12.00** Hannah Laing — Follow The Rave **STV 6.00** Good Morning Britain **10.00** This Morning **1.30** News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal **3.00** Deal Or No Deal **4.00** Tipping Point **5.00** The Chase **6.00** Regional News **6.30** News; Weather **7.30** Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy **8.00** Emmerdale **8.30** Coronation Street **9.00** The Chase Around The World **10.00** News At Ten **10.45** FILM: Casino Royale **1.10** Teleshopping **3.00** The Summit **3.50** Unwind **5.05-6.00** Deal Or No Deal **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Yr Whws **6.10** Shwshaswyn **6.20** Jen A Jim Pob Dim **6.35** Tomos A'i Ffrindiau **6.45** Sigldigwt **7.00** Blociau Lliw **7.05** Digbi Draig **7.20** Caru Canu A Stori **7.30** Twm Twrch **7.45** Help Llaw **8.00** Byd Carlo Bach **8.10** Caban Banana Gareth **8.15** Byd Tad-Cu **8.30** Mojo Swoptops **8.45** Ahoi! **9.00** Chwedlau Tinga Tinga **9.15** Twt **9.25** Jen A Jim A'r Cywiadur **9.40** Blero Yn Mynd I Ocido **9.50** Annibendod **10.00** Yr Whws **10.05** Caru Canu A Stori **10.15** Sigldigwt **10.30** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **12.00** Newyddion **12.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **2.00** Newyddion **2.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Coverage includes the day's main ceremony — the drama medal. **7.30** Newyddion **7.50** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. The rest of the evening's competitions and performances **10.30** Y Babell Len **11.00-12.05** Yr Afon

You say

We have long had to endure presenters who say "sat" and "stood" when they mean "sitting" or "standing", but last week we had Dan Snow torturing us several times in the course of **The Odyssey** (5) with "Me and Tom did this...." "Me and Tom did that...". If schools can no longer manage to teach basic grammar, perhaps the TV companies could step in with courses for their presenters?
Dr Frances Follin

Send your comments to telly@sunday-times.co.uk

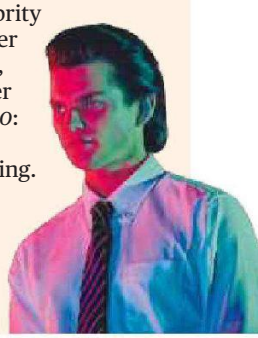
Critics' choice

The Very Best of Peter Sellers (Sky Arts/Now, 9pm)
In 1958 *The Best of Peter Sellers* was released, an album of audio spoofs of newfangled things such as pop music and TV. Put together with rather less aplomb, *The Very Best of Peter Sellers* was released in 1990, ten years after Sellers's death, and tried to do the same for his screen career. While it's another dazzling display of versatility, it leans heavily towards his later movies – international, in colour, and mostly overtly out to get laughs – with clips from the *Pink Panther* series and even from *What's New Pussycat?*, a Swinging Sixties shambles. Arguably, though, his "very best" performances were in black-and-white (such as *Lolita* and *Dr Strangelove*), were somewhere on the spectrum between drama and dark comedy, and/or were in films made for British audiences, such as *I'm All Right Jack* and *The Ladykillers*.
John Dugdale

Peter Sellers in the 1976 film The Pink Panther Strikes Again

A novel approach to the final school year

The Shards (Disney+)
It makes perfect sense that *The Shards* should begin on May 23, 1980, the same day that *The Shining* was released: from the very start this adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis's 2023 novel is out to disturb. Narrated by Igby Rigney's deadpan high-schooler Bret (yes, metafiction may be involved), it tells the queasily intriguing story of a group of privileged LA teens whose gilded cage is infiltrated by an upsettingly inventive serial killer called the Trawler. Also starring the celebrity scions Kaia Gerber and Homer Gere, *right*, it's a slasher *Beverly Hills 90210*: nasty, cold and horribly compelling.
VS



Possession (Sky Atlantic/Now, from 9pm)
Gugu Mbatha-Raw stars in this "supernatural thriller" as Claudia, a biracial lawyer dispatched from Bristol to Jamaica. Her job there is to protect the right of Oliver (Jonny Lee Miller) to inherit his family's estate, in the face of a claim that his late father left it to the mysterious Cudjoe East (Sheldon Shepherd). Gothic tropes abound in Claudia's first visit to Hope Hill, outside which wild partying continues through the night; and soon a second narrative emerges, set on the same plantation when a slave revolt is put down. Linking the twin storylines, Cudjoe claims to be from this faraway era, and condemned to wander through time. The script initially seems overly predictable; but later the storytelling improves markedly, once *Possession* unmasks itself as *Sinners*-like historical horror as well as a modern legal parable. *JD*

Who Do You Think You Are? (BBC1, 9pm)
The final episode of this series, featuring the heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson, was presumably scheduled to broadcast after a garlanded appearance at the Commonwealth Games, but injury forced her to pull out. It's a shame, because hers is a tale of the Commonwealth of Nations. Her mother is English but she's not daft – instead she traces her father's family to the Bahamas. A trip to the Caribbean it is, then.

Gugu Mbatha-Raw (Sky Atl, 9pm)

The Five-Star Weekend (Sky Atlantic, from 11pm)
This sun-soaked adaptation of Elin Hilderbrand's novel has been a lightweight pleasure, a holiday watch about a grieving social media cook. An impressive ensemble of leading women – Jennifer Garner, Regina Hall, Gemma Chan, D'Arcy Carden and the redoubtable Chloë Sevigny) – has sought to add acid to the mix. Tonight, the final episodes and Hollis's self-curated world is about to come crashing down.

Keeping Hope in Motion (BBC4, 10.15pm)
When a riding accident in 1995 rendered the *Superman* actor Christopher Reeve paralysed from the neck down, his determination to walk again was inspirational if ultimately unsuccessful, but the publicity (such as this 2004 film) took research forward.
Helen Stewart

Film choice

The Electrical Life of Louis Wain (Film4, 6.45pm)
Benedict Cumberbatch plays the Victorian artist Louis Wain, who made it his life's mission to capture the beauty of the world to honour the memory of his late wife, Emily (Claire Foy). That relationship unfolds via a self-conscious and helter-skelter dash. It follows Wain's life from early artistic scribbler to famous sketcher of cat cartoons to eventual resident of a psychiatric hospital. (2021)

Women Talking (BBC2, 11.05pm)
This film is rooted in a real-life atrocity that occurred in a community in Bolivia. Nine men drugged and raped on a mass scale, spraying tranquillisers into the homes of their victims before attacking them. The film is punctuated with flashbacks to the moments after the assaults. A fine cast includes Claire Foy. (2022)

Dance with a Stranger (Film4, 11.40pm)
Mike Newell's drama about Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain and recently pardoned, launched the careers of Miranda Richardson and Rupert Everett. Richardson portrays Ellis, a former nude model and prostitute who manages a London drinking den. There she meets David Blakely (Everett), a handsome playboy racing driver, and they embark on a doomed relationship. (1984)

On demand

● Inside the Trustor Scandal (Netflix)
The Swedish financier Joachim Posener went on the run from Interpol in 1997, after he was accused of being the brains behind an illegal corporate takeover and looting of the investment company Trustor AB. Now, nearly 30 years on, Posener is willing to speak, on camera, to the director Karin af Klintberg, about how it all came about, and what he and his fellow associates have been up to all this time. A stylish mix of archival footage, investigative reporting and first-hand accounts, Klintberg's film is at its most compelling when the mysterious Posener is on the screen.

● Folk Aduaidh (BBC iPlayer)
The title translates as "Folk from the north", meaning the north of Ireland, and this exquisitely assembled three-part documentary from 2015 goes deep into the roots of folk music in Ulster, taking us from the late 1700s to the (relative) present day. Inevitably the civil rights struggle and the Troubles feature heavily. Yet this is a series that is as much about union as conflict, and the footage, whether it's a slightly wary-looking Donovan performing at the 1980 Belfast Folk Festival or working-class families singing Gaelic folk songs in their front rooms, is a delight to behold.
Andrew Male

BBC 3

7.00pm The Catch Up Update.
7.05 Deadly 60 The wildlife of Namibia. **7.30 Deadly 60** Seeking Africa's big cats.
8.00 Sort Your Life Out Advice.
9.00 Better Date Than Never People take their first steps into the dating scene. **9.30 Better Date Than Never** A woman is ready to find love as her authentic self. **10.05 Better Date Than Never** A dater is left speechless. **10.35 Better Date Than Never** A woman has her wedding planned. **11.05 Better Date Than Never** A first date on a beach. **11.40 Better Date Than Never** A first date ends on a high. (Last in series)
12.10 Things You Should Have Done Three episodes.
1.40 Tartan Around
3.45-4.00 Jobless

BBC 4

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys (Last in series)
7.30 Pubs, Ponds And Power — The Story Of The Village The history of Cromford in Derbyshire.
8.00 FILM: Superman Stars Christopher Reeve. A superpowered alien is evacuated from his doomed planet and crash-lands on the Earth, becoming a crusader for justice. Irresistible. (1978, PG)
10.15 CHOICE Keeping Hope In Motion (See Critics' choice)
11.15 Parkinson With Mel Smith.
12.15 Ian Rankin's Hidden Edinburgh Documentary.
1.10 As 7.30pm
1.40 Ian Rankin's Hidden Edinburgh Documentary.
2.40-3.10 Great British Railway Journeys (Last in series)

ITV 2

6.00pm Catchphrase With Alex Brooker, Vicky Pattison and Max Whitlock.
7.00 The Floor USA Rob Lowe hosts the gameshow.
8.00 The 1% Club Quiz show, hosted by Lee Mack.
9.00 Romesh Ranganathan's Parents' Evening Comedy gameshow, with Alison Hammond, Iain Stirling and Carol Vorderman.
10.00 Changing Ends It is 1989 and Alan has been bitten by the love bug. (S3, ep 1)
10.35 Family Guy Stewie and Brian follow their new neighbours. (Series 8, ep 3) **11.05 Family Guy** A time machine transports Mort Goldman to Nazi-occupied Poland. (Series 7, ep 3)
11.35-12.05 American Dad! The Smiths open their own cemetery. (Series 16, ep 16)

ITV 3

5.50pm Heartbeat A shooting party at Ashfordly Hall masks a sinister plot. **6.55 Heartbeat** David inherits a ventriloquist's dummy.
8.00 Vera The detective investigates the discovery of a homeless young man's body in an area known for illicit teen gatherings, and tries to discover how he ended up on the streets. (Series 6, ep 2)
10.00 Grantchester Will and Ellie encounter a brutal murder on a trip to the cinema. (Series 5, ep 3) **11.00 Grantchester** A young man is found dead and naked out on the Fens.
11.50-12.55 Trial & Retribution Walker brings Milton on to the investigation, but this causes more problems than solutions. (S10, ep 6)

E4

6.00pm The Simpsons Homer enrols in clown college. **6.30 The Simpsons** Bart gets into trouble with the Australian authorities. **7.00 The Simpsons** A crisis brings the Simpson and Flanders families closer. **7.30 The Simpsons** Homer promises Marge the trip of a lifetime.
8.00 Vanderpump Rules Kim's girls' night descends into chaos when Natalie refuses to ignore their problems.
9.00 Cruising Paradise — Above And Below Deck The Star Princess drops anchor at Amber Cove in the Dominican Republic.
10.00 Gogglebox Reviews of The Traitors, I'm a Celebrity, Cara Delevingne, Mammals and You Won't Believe This.
11.00-12.10 Naked Attraction

U&Drama

6.00pm Last Of The Summer Wine The trio target a tight-fisted pub-goer. **6.40 Last Of The Summer Wine** The pals find a canoe and decide to take it for a trip. **7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine** Compo gets out his old motorbike and tries to perform a few stunts.
8.00 The Marlow Murder Club A revered member of the sailing club is brutally bludgeoned to death. (Series 2, ep 5) **9.00 The Marlow Murder Club** Motives stack up against the suspects; and Kit's killer sends another warning.
10.00 New Tricks The team investigates a fatal boating accident. (Series 6, ep 7)
11.20-12.40 Luther Serial killer Henry Madsen wakes from his coma. (Series 1, ep 4)

Sky Arts

6.00pm Tales Of The Unexpected A surgeon performs an experiment. **6.30 Tales Of The Unexpected** A policeman's murder proves baffling.
7.00 Voices Of The Valleys Following the members of three male voice choirs from across Wales. (1/3)
8.00 Discovering Bruce Willis The life and career of the American actor.
9.00 CHOICE The Very Best Of Peter Sellers A celebration of the comedy actor's career. (See Critics' choice)
10.20 Spike Milligan — The Unseen Archive A look at recently unearthed film, interviews and scripts.
11.55-12.55 The Directors The life and work of film-maker and choreographer Stanley Donen.

Sky One

6.00pm Animal Control (R)
7.00 The Simpsons Grampa inherits $100,000. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** Marge paints a portrait. (R)
8.00 Rob & Romesh vs Darts The boys play a match at Alexandra Palace during the world championship. (R)
9.00 The Dyers' Caravan Park A five-a-side football pitch is installed at the park. (R)
10.00 The Paper Spin-off from The Office, with Domhnall Gleeson. A documentary crew follows the staff of a declining Midwestern newspaper (1/10, R) **10.35 The Paper** Ned starts with his crew of reporters. (R)
11.10 Animal Control The new kennel is opened. (Series 4, ep 2, R) **11.40-12.10 Animal Control** Frank defends Templeton. (R)

Sky Atlantic

5.45pm Heated Rivalry Scott discusses his public coming out on TV. (6/6)
6.50 The Penguin Victor is torn between his new life and his old one. (3/8) **7.55 The Penguin** Sofia makes plans for the future as she confronts events that turned her into the Hangman.
9.00 CHOICE Possession New supernatural thriller. A lawyer goes to Jamaica to challenge an inheritance claim made by a local man. (1/5) **10.00 Possession** With Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Johnny Lee Miller. (See Critics' choice)
11.00 CHOICE The Five-Star Weekend A storm hits the island. (7/8) **11.45-12.45 The Five-Star Weekend** Truths emerge. (See Critics' choice; last in series)

TPTV

3.55pm FILM: Odd Man Out Stars James Mason and Robert Newton. Thriller. (1947, PG, B/W)
6.20 Strange But True A haunted bomber.
6.55 The Brothers Barbara vows Mary to secrecy.
8.00 Mark Saber A man hires Saber to find his wife.
8.30 The Wheeltappers And Shunters Social Club Acts include Roy Orbison.
9.20 FILM: The Horror Of Frankenstein Stars Ralph Bates. The crazed scientist kills father so that he can continue his experiments to reanimate the dead. Tongue-in-cheek. (1970, 15)
11.20-1.10 The Strange Case Of Sherlock Holmes And Arthur Conan Doyle

Films

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE
6.00pm Heretic (2024, 15) **8.00** Normal. A temporary small-town law enforcer uncovers dark mysteries after a bank robbery. (2026, 15) **9.40** Primate. A pet chimpanzee contracts rabies and brutally hunts a family. (2025, 18) **11.15-12.55** Love Me (2024, 15)

SKY CINEMA THRILLER
6.00pm The Bourne Supremacy (2004, 12) **8.00** Civil War. In a dystopian America, a team of journalists race to the White House before a faction of rebels get there. (2024, 15) **10.00-12.05** Fatal Attraction. A married lawyer comes to regret his one-night stand with a business associate. (1987, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS
5.40pm First Knight (1995, PG) **8.00** Robin Hood — Prince Of Thieves. An outlawed nobleman fights for justice. (1991, PG) **10.25-12.45** Godzilla. A giant mutant lizard spawned from an atomic test rampages through New York's streets. (1998, PG)

SKY CINEMA SELECT
5.30pm DC League Of Super-Pets (2022, PG) **7.20** Dog Man. A half-human canine is sworn to protect and serve as he faces feline supervillain Petey the Cat. (2025, U) **8.55** The Angry Birds Movie. An outsider senses danger among his community. (2016, U) **10.35-12.15** The Angry Birds Movie 2 (2019, U)

SKY CINEMA DRAMA
5.45pm Valentine's Day (2010, 12) **8.00** Grease. A rebellious teenager falls for a shy Australian girl, but risks losing her by trying to act cool. (1978, PG) **10.05-12.15** Grease 2. A shy English boy at Rydell High poses as a tough biker to try to impress his dream girl. (1982, PG)

FILM4
4.50pm All That Heaven Allows (1955, U) **6.45 CHOICE** The Electrical Life Of Louis Wain. Biographical drama. (2021, 12; see Film choice) **9.00** Captain Phillips. The captain of a cargo ship travelling near the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. (2013, 12) **11.40-1.45 CHOICE** Dance With A Stranger (1985, 15; see Film choice)

Entertainment

ITV4
5.45pm Minder **6.50** River Monsters **7.50** Sharpe. With Sean Bean **10.00** The Motorbike Show **11.00** Black Sails **12.05** Hell's Kitchen **1.00** Minder **2.00-3.00** The Professionals

MORE4
5.50pm Car SOS **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** The Reclaimers — Made In Suffolk **10.00** 24 Hours In A&E **12.10** 999 — On The Front Line **1.15-3.25** 24 Hours In A&E

U&GOLD
5.40pm Last Of The Summer Wine **6.20** Keeping Up Appearances **7.00** Porridge **7.40** Dad's Army — The Lost Episodes **8.20** Are You Being Served? **9.00** Porridge **9.40** Joe & David's Magical Sitcom Tour **10.40** Porridge **11.20** The Green Green Grass **12.00** Porridge **1.20** Don't Wait Up **2.00-3.15** Am I Being Unreasonable?

SKY COMEDY
6.00pm Will & Grace **7.00** The US Office **8.00** The Reluctant Landlord **9.00** Ricky Gervais — Fame **10.30** Last Week Tonight **11.15** Hacks **12.15** Hitmen **1.15-2.15** Community

5 STAR
6.00pm Home And Away **7.00** GPs — Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts **9.00** A&E After Dark **10.00** Ambulance — Code Red **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00** Killer At The Crime Scene **1.00** Cold Case Killers **2.00-2.50** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts

5 USA
6.00pm NCIS **9.00** Blue Bloods **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **2.00-2.55** NCIS: Hawaii

SKY WITNESS
6.00pm Nothing To Declare **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **9.00** CIA **10.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **11.00** The Rookie **12.00** FBI **2.00-3.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent

U&W
6.00pm DIY SOS — The Big Build **7.00** MasterChef Australia **8.40** Property Brothers — Under Pressure **9.40** DIY SOS — The Big Build **11.40** First Responders **1.45-3.00** The Mormons Are Coming

COMEDY CENTRAL
6.00pm Friends **9.00** FILM: Private Benjamin. Stars Goldie Hawn and Armand Assante. Comedy **11.10** Stupid Central **12.10** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **1.10-2.10** Iain Stirling's Roast The Internet

U&YESTERDAY
6.00pm Antiques Roadshow **7.00** The Green Planet **8.00** Bangers & Cash **9.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics. A Volvo 144 **10.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00-1.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics

U&DAVE
6.00pm Hairy Bikers' Best Of British **7.00** Mortimer & Whitehouse — Gone Fishing **7.40** Would I Lie To You? **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40** Would I Lie To You? **2.00-3.00** QI XL

Factual

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6.00pm Secret Nazi Science **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Apocalypse — Hitler Takes on the West **10.00** Hitler's Teen Killers **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00-1.00** Amsterdam Central 24/7

DISCOVERY
5.00pm Alaska — Homestead Rescue **7.00** Ant Anstead Master Mechanic

5 Great shows on ITVX

1 Love & Death (2023)
Elizabeth Olsen stars in this true story of a Texas housewife with a seemingly perfect life who is accused of being an axe murderer.

2 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1997-2003)
The classic fantasy series starring Sarah Michelle Gellar and Anthony Head.

3 The 7Up Collection (1964-19)
Nine series of Michael Apted's extraordinary series about people we first met as children in 1964 are on ITVX.

4 Heartbeat (1992-2010)
With it's foot-tapping theme tune and nostalgic feel, the 1960s-set drama ran for 18 series. Now you can make a return visit to Aidensfield.

5 Hornblower (1998-2003)
Ioan Gruffudd stars in swashbuckling adventures during the Napoleonic Wars.

Tim Glanfield

Elizabeth Olsen as Candy Montgomery in Love & Death

8.00 Supercar Showroom **9.00** Alien Sharks — Untamed America **10.00** Sharkzilla Takes New York **11.00** The Alaska Triangle **12.00** Deadliest Catch **1.00-2.00** Alien Sharks — Untamed America

PBS AMERICA
6.50pm Conquistadors — The Rise And Fall **7.50** Pirates — Behind The Legends **8.50** Iron Curtain — Living Under Soviet Occupation **10.00** Hitler's Gold **11.00-12.00** Pirates — Behind The Legends

SKY DOCUMENTARIES
5.55pm JFK — Destiny Betrayed **7.00** The Alien Autopsy Scandal **8.00** Ghislaine Maxwell — Epstein's Shadow **11.10-1.10** An American Bombing — The Road To April 19th

SKY NATURE
6.00pm Big Cat Country **7.00** Monkey Life **8.00** Superbeast **9.00** Wild Battlegrounds **10.00** Big Cat Country **11.00-12.00** Dawn To Dusk

DISCOVERY HISTORY
7.00pm How The Universe Works **8.00** Thai Cave Rescue. A flooded cave in 2018 **9.00** Unexplained And Unexplored **10.00** How Do They Do It? **11.00-12.00** Combat Dealers

Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT
6.00am News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **9.00** Good Morning Transfers **10.00** Sky Sports FC **12.00** Transfer Talk **1.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00** The World Football Show **3.00 LIVE** The Hundred: London Spirit Women v MI London Women **6.00 LIVE** The Hundred: London Spirit Men v MI London Men **9.30 LIVE** Tennis. Coverage of the Canadian Open **4.00-6.00** News

TNT SPORTS 1
6.30am SailGP — Racing On The Edge **7.00** Men's Cycling World Tour **8.00** Tour De France Women **9.00** Test Cricket **10.00** Reload **10.15 LIVE** AFL **1.30** Tour De France Women **2.30 LIVE** Tour De France Women. Stage six **6.00** MLB **7.00 LIVE** MLB: Milwaukee Brewers v Pittsburgh Pirates. Start-time 7.10 **10.00** Premier League Stories **10.30** Sign Up — Into Football **11.30** WRC Review. The Rally Finland **12.30** Classic Premier League **1.30** AFL **3.00** Men's Cycling World Tour **4.00** Tour De France Women **5.00-6.00** Men's Cycling Pro Series

Radio & Podcasts

● Artworks (Radio 4, 9.30am)
In May 1966 a voice in the crowd at Manchester's Free Trade Hall shouted "Judas!" at Bob Dylan for daring to play an electric guitar, breaking away from the folkie purity of the acoustic. Marking this 60th anniversary, John Wilson presents a four-part series in this arts strand, *The Guitar Story*, looking at the story of the instrument as a driver of social and cultural change. Wilson – the bass player in the band Centrist Dad, alongside the vocalist Robert Peston and the drummer Ed Balls – begins with a look at the guitar's history.

John Wilson's four-part series explores the guitar

● The Documentary (BBC World Service, 9.30am)
We are forever hearing about tech wizards such as Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk, but this programme celebrates those who took a more guerrilla approach to bringing the internet to the masses. Andrada Fiscutean tells the story of Romanian teenagers in the late 1990s who set up a DIY network in Bucharest by stringing cables between tower blocks.

● Travel That Made Me (podcast)
Rajan Datar talks to guests about the travel experiences that affected them. Guests include Paul Simonon, bass player of the Clash, who recalls touring experiences as well as living in Florence as a child, and the BBC chief international correspondent, Lyse Doucet, on finding beauty in war zones and dancing the night away with Margaret Trudeau at Studio 54.
Clair Woodward

TIMES RADIO
5.00 Tom Nunan With Early Breakfast **6.00** Kate McCann And Stig Abell With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Ed Vaizey **1.00** The Times At One: With Sebastian Payne **2.00** Aasmah Mir **4.00** John Pienaar With Times Radio Drive **7.00** The Evening Edition With Kait Borsay **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00** The Best Of Times Radio

To get in touch with the Times Radio studio, text TIMES plus your message to 87222. Texts cost your standard message charge.

RADIO 4
5.00 News **5.04** Sideways (R) **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **6.00** Today **9.00** Natalie Haynes Stands Up For The Classics. Christopher Biggins and Llewelyn Morgan learn about Nero **9.30** Artworks. New series. John Wilson explores how the guitar has driven cultural change **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Three Ages Of Child (R) **11.45** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away. With the comedian Russell Kane and the money mentor Selina Flaviu (R) **12.00** News **12.04** Scam Secrets **12.32** Sliced Bread **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Bare Necessities. Dan Richards learns how survival skills can help build ecological resilience **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: A Portmeirion Love Affair With Life. Imagining Brian Epstein, the manager of the Beatles, finding unexpected love at Portmeirion in North Wales, in the summer of 1966 **3.00** This Natural Life **3.27** Appeal (R) **3.30** Feedback **4.00** The Briefing Room **4.30** Inside Science **5.00** PM **6.00** News **6.30** Icklewick FM (R) **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** At Your Own Peril (R) **8.15** The Media Show (R) **9.00** Loose Ends. With Fiona Allen, Olly Smith and Natalie Wildgoose (R) **9.45** The Cows Are Mad (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime **11.00** Radical **11.30** Hollywood And The Adland Five (R) **12.00** News **12.30** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA
5.00 A Wizard Of Earthsea **6.00** The Waiting Game **6.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **7.00** Capital Gains **7.30** The Burkiss Way **8.00** Believe It! **8.30** Following Pappano **8.45** Small Island **9.00** Icklewick FM **9.30** Behind The Taverna **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Great Lives **10.30** The Race To Dover. Jonathan Agnew looks at the race to be the first person to fly the English Channel **11.00** The Waiting Game **11.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **12.00** Capital Gains **12.30** The Burkiss Way **1.00** Believe It! **1.30** Following Pappano **1.45** Small Island **2.00** We've Been Here Before **2.30** The Change **3.00** Berlin **4.00** Great Lives **4.30** The Race To Dover **5.00** The Waiting Game **5.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **6.00** Capital Gains **6.30** The Burkiss Way **7.00** Believe It! **7.30** Following Pappano **7.45** Small Island **8.00** We've Been Here Before **8.30** The Change **9.00** Berlin **10.00** Icklewick FM **10.30** 1966 And All That **11.00** The Casebook Of Max And Ivan **11.30** Sophie Willan's Guide To Normality **11.45-12.00** What's The Story, Ashley Storrie?

LBC
7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Tom Swarbrick **7.00** Ali Miraj **10.00** Ben Kentish. Discussion **1.00** Clive Bull **4.00** Ian Payne

RADIO 3
6.30 Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics. Ian Skelly plays a selection of classical music **1.00** Classical Live. Mark Forrest introduces highlights from the Proms, including music by Rachmaninov; plus chamber performances from this year's Ryedale Festival and Baroque music from Fribourg **4.00** Composer Of The Week **5.00** In Tune. Featuring music, arts news and guests **7.00** BBC Proms. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, in London, the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique and Monteverdi Choir conducted by Mark Elder in a semi-staged performance of Weber's Oberon **10.00** Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents an adventurous, immersive soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between **11.30** 'Round Midnight. Soweto Kinch presents the best in jazz, with a particular focus on the British scene **12.30** Through The Night. The Swedish Radio Choir sings a programme of sacred and secular music, spanning Palestrina to Ligeti

CLASSIC FM
6.30 Dan Walker **9.00** The Hall Of Fame Hour **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Zeb Soanes **9.00** Composer Carousel With Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00** Bill Overton **4.00** Lucy Coward

RADIO 2
6.30 The Sara Cox Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** Joel Dommett **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show With Darius Rucker **10.00** The Good Groove With Melvin Odoom **12.00** Connor Phillips **3.00** Alternative Sounds Of The 90s With Dermot O'Leary (R) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

VIRGIN RADIO
6.30 Steve Denyer On The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Emma B **2.00** Ben Jones **6.00** Geoff Lloyd **10.00** Goldierocks **2.00** Stu Elmore

TALKSPORT
5.00 Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast With Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White And Simon Jordan **1.00** Hawksbee And Baker **4.00** Drive **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** The Sports Bar **1.00** Extra Time With Paul Ross

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
9.30 Animal Park Wildlife. (R)
10.15 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back A vehicle recovery specialist tracks expensive farmyard vehicles stolen in broad daylight. (R)
10.45 Expert Witness How a UK fibre specialist brought closure to a long-running murder case in Australia. (R)
11.15 Homes Under The Hammer Auctions. (R)
12.15 Bargain Hunt — 20 Years Of The One Show Two teams of One Show presenters battle it out.
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
2.00 The Hairdresser Mysteries Lily has both a hairstyle emergency and a murder to solve. (4/6)
2.45 Escape To The Country (R)
3.45 The Bidding Room A rare album from one of the world's biggest bands.
4.30 The Answer Run Quiz.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show. (R)
6.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.30 Regional News Update.
7.00 The One Show Features.
7.30 CHOICE The NaNaz — Age Against The Machine Following the South Wales punk band — six women who are tearing up the rulebook on growing older. (See Critics' choice)
8.00 Granite Harbour As the case reaches a conclusion, Lindo and Bart face a race against time to find the real killer as secrets are finally revealed. (Last in series)
9.00 Would I Lie To You? Guest panellists Cush Jumbo, Judi Love, Grayson Perry and Tim Vine bolster the deceitful talents of team captains Lee Mack and David Mitchell. (R)
9.30 Ann Droid Sue has invited Michael and Renee to dinner but is upset when their real motive for coming round is revealed. (4/6)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.45 CHOICE 28 Days Later Stars Cillian Murphy and Naomie Harris. Survivors band together after a virus drives its victims into a homicidal rage. (2002, 18; see Film choice)
12.35-6.00 Joins BBC News

SCOTLAND 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather. Updates.

BBC 2

6.30 Money For Nothing (R)
7.15 The Bidding Room (R)
8.00 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence (Signed, R)
9.00 News; Weather Headlines.
1.00 House Of Games (R)
1.30 The Finish Line (R)
2.15 Do You Know Your Place? A Coleraine challenge. (R)
2.45 The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation In Spain. (R)
3.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R)
4.30 Vintage Antiques Roadshow In Clitheroe. (R)
5.15 Flog It! From Haddon Hall in Derbyshire. (R)
6.00 House Of Games Gethin Jones, Tiff Stevenson, Kate Thornton and Gary Wilmot take part in the quiz. (R)
6.30 Just One Thing The benefits of eating beetroot. (Last in series, R)
7.00 Iolo's Anglesey The flora and fauna of Anglesey. (R)
7.30 Beechgrove Garden Brian Cunningham harvests his spring vegetables; and Calum Clunie sows winter crops in his family plot.
8.00 CHOICE Gardeners' World Frances Tophill returns to Damson Farm in Bath and spends the day with the owner Alison and guest Mary Berry. (See Critics' choice)
9.00 Bergerac Chloe finds evidence proving there is some truth in John Blakely's accusations; and a development leads the team to suspect one of Jersey's criminals. (4/6)
9.45 QI XL Sandi Toksvig hosts an extended edition, with panellists Ria Lina, Eshaan Akbar, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies answering questions on the theme of tricks and treats. (R)
10.30 Newsnight Headlines.
11.05 CHOICE Hoard Stars Saura Lightfoot-Leon, Joseph Quinn and Hayley Squires. Years after moving away from her hoarding mother, a foster teen revisits her childhood memories and the trauma she repressed. (2023, 18; see Film choice)
1.00 Panorama (Signed, R)
1.30-2.30 The Rapture Gabs and Dick uncover evidence that Leonard is hiding something. (Signed, R)

ITV 1

6.00 Good Morning Britain
10.00 This Morning Celebrity chat and lifestyle features.
1.30 News; Weather Reports.
1.55 Regional News Headlines.
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his dealer den visit Newport, where Karen Dalmeny pays big bucks for a brooch, and Laurie Scully conducts a male voice choir. (R)
3.00 Deal Or No Deal Stephen Mulhern hosts the game. (R)
4.00 Tipping Point Game. (R)
5.00 The Chase Bradley Walsh presents the quiz show. (R)
6.00 Regional News Update.
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.30 CHOICE EFL Cup Mark Pougatch presents all the action from the first-round tie between Middlesbrough and Wrexham, live at Riverside Stadium. With analysis from Tommy Smith and Steven Fletcher, and commentary by Seb Hutchinson and Lucy Ward. Kickoff is at 8.00. (See Critics' choice)
10.25 News; Weather Reports.
10.55 Regional News Headlines.
11.15 FILM: Jack Reacher — Never Go Back Stars Tom Cruise and Cobie Smulders. The vigilante tries to save an army major who has been framed for murder. Slick action sequel. (2016, 12)
1.10 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 Force Of Nature Shifting rains test three mothers as floods transform habitats, destroy homes, and bring perilous opportunity. (R)
3.50 Long Lost Family The team meets a woman who wants to find her older brother, and a man who had a baby girl with his late wife, but the youngster was put up for adoption. (R)
4.45-6.00 Unwind Relaxation.

The NaNaz (BBC1, 7.30pm)

Channel 4

6.30 The King Of Queens (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Sitcom. (R)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R)
12.05 News; Weather Reports.
12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
1.10 The Great House Giveaway Property. (R)
2.10 Countdown Game.
3.00 A Place In The Sun (R)
4.00 Saving Country Houses At Treberfydd House in Wales, the biggest wedding of the year is underway. (R)
5.00 Chateau DIY (R)
6.00 American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz find a rare Superman comic. (R)
7.00 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 CHOICE Surgery Secrets Of The Super Rich A bride-to-be has a non-surgical liquid nose job; a woman tackles years of sun damage with laser technology; and a man is investing over £1,000 a month in a series of tweakments. (See Critics' choice)
9.00 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts the quiz, as team captains Rob Beckett and Jon Richardson are joined by guests Katherine Ryan and Fatiha El-Ghorri.
10.00 Big Fat Quiz — Best Bits Victory is snatched from the jaws of humiliation, as comedians including Sara Pascoe, James Acaster and Jamie and Natasia Demetriou taste sweet success against all odds.
11.05 Sarah Millican — Home Bird Live Stand-up show recorded at Newcastle's Tyne Theatre & Opera House, in which the comedian shares a few insights into life. (R)
12.10 Greg Davies — The Back Of My Mum's Head (R)
1.05 Ramy Ahmed receives a proposal from a woman who wants to be his second wife. (Series 3, ep 7) **1.40 Ramy** Ramy is in an awkward situation with an influential sheikh.
2.15 FILM: Theater Camp Stars Ben Platt and Molly Gordon. Hit-and-miss comedy. (2023, 12)
3.50 Sunday Brunch (R)
4.00-6.00 Four In A Bed (R)

5

6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Debate.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion.
12.45 News; Weather Reports.
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.20 The Book Club Murders Mystery, with Brittany Underwood. Members of a book club start to receive threatening letters that reveal their darkest secrets. (R)
4.00 Castle The NYPD and Castle search for Beckett. (Series 7, ep 15, R)
4.55 Love Nature (R)
5.00 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Menorca — A Year In The Sun Taking a look at Menorca's seafood, art and architectural restorations. (Last in series, R)
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Tom Read Wilson's Grand Tour The presenter reimagines the rite of passage once undertaken by aristocrats. (R)
7.55 News; Weather Reports.
8.00 Corsica — Jewel Of The Mediterranean Cameras focus on the French island, which boasts 600 miles of stunning coastline, lush green forests and majestic mountains.
9.00 Alexander Armstrong In South Korea The presenter travels across South Korea, one of the most influential and successful countries on earth, known for its manufacturing strength and cultural exports. (R)
10.30 Piers Morgan — Uncensored Bold, opinion-led news.
12.00 Fare Dodgers — At War With The Law A Transport for London investigator pursues a suspected fare evader owing the network almost £2,000 in unpaid fares. (R)
1.00 Teleshopping Goods. (R)
2.00 GPs — Behind Closed Doors Dr Nashat Qamar is visited by a pensioner who is keen to shift an ongoing cough. (R)
2.50 Castle (Series 7, ep 15, R)
3.40 Friends US sitcom. (R)
4.30 Jane McDonald's Yorkshire — No Place Like Home The singer returns to Wakefield. (R)
5.25 Entertainment News
5.35-6.00 Children's Shows

Variations

BBC SCOTLAND 7.00 Reporting Scotland **7.25** Sportscene — Championship: Partick Thistle v Livingston. Live coverage, kickoff 7.30 **9.30** Best Of Only An Excuse? A selection of sketches picked from the archives of the hit comedy **10.00** Still Game. Jack and Victor acquire a car **10.30** Two Doors Down. Colin turns to his neighbours for support when he is dumped by Cathy **11.00-12.00** Rip It Up **STV 6.00** Good Morning Britain **10.00** This Morning **1.30** News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal **3.00** Deal Or No Deal **4.00** Tipping Point **5.00** The Chase **6.00** Regional News **6.30** News; Weather **7.00** The STV Radio Football Takeover **7.30** EFL Cup: Middlesbrough v Wrexham. Live, kickoff 8.00 **10.25** News At Ten **11.15** FILM: Jack Reacher — Never Go Back **1.10** Teleshopping **3.00** Force Of Nature **3.50** Long Lost Family **4.45-6.00** Unwind **S4C 6.00** Cyw: Blociau Rhif **6.05** Sam Tan **6.15** Blwi **6.25** Octonots **6.40** Deian A Loli **6.55** Og Y Draenog Hapus **7.05** Joni Jet **7.20** Misho **7.30** Crawc A'i Ffrindiau **7.45** Parc Glan Gwil **8.00** Odo **8.10** Sion Y Chef **8.20** Anifeiliaid Bach Y Byd **8.30** Pablo **8.45** Oli Wyn **8.55** Guto Gwningen **9.10** Abadas **9.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni **9.30** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **12.00** Newyddion **12.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **2.00** Newyddion **2.05** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Including the day's main ceremony — the chairing ceremony **7.30** Newyddion A'r Tywydd **7.50** Eisteddfod Genedlaethol **10.30** Y Babell Len **11.00-12.05** Gwesty Aduniad

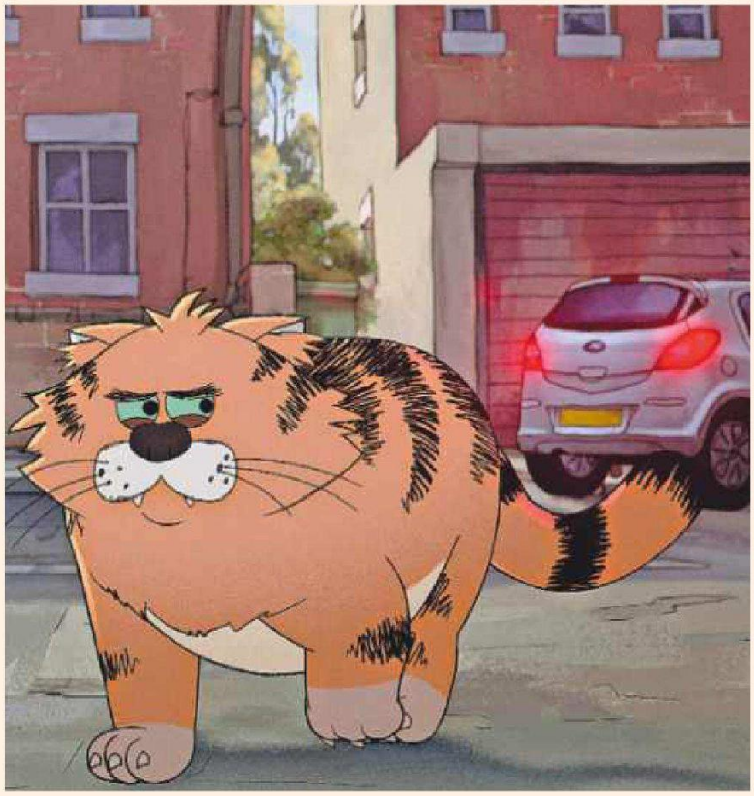
You say

Gardeners' Otherworld (BBC2)? What planet is Monty Don on? The flowers and vegetables in his garden seem to be entirely immune to the plant stress, wilting and bolting that is affecting the rest of us. Has he not noticed that there is a severe drought? Surely the programme should be more relevant?
Kay Bagon

Send your comments to telly@sunday-times.co.uk

Critics' choice

Alley Cats (Friday, Netflix)
Ricky Gervais has complimented Netflix on its willingness to commission his latest project based on a scant pitch: "It's cats, and they swear." What happens in it, the deep-pocketed streamer apparently asked, and when Gervais explained that nothing happens, *Alley Cats* got the green light. Easy as that for the man who coughed up one of its biggest successes with *After Life*, and whose specials spring to the top of their viewing charts. The scabrous gang of Hanna-Barbera-style cartoon cats, on a mission to stick together and survive in a brutal world, is played by his preferred ensemble. Indeed one rather suspects the whole show is a ruse to assemble his favourite people and enjoy riffing filthily. Joining Gervais, as the voice of Gus, are Kerry Godliman (Lara), Diane Morgan (Olive), Tom Basden (Ponce), David Earl (Puke) and Andrew Brooke (Fang).
Helen Stewart



Gus is a "fat, angry, uneducated, street-wise curmudgeon"

All the action from the first-round football tie

Carabao Cup: Middlesbrough v Wrexham (ITV1, 7.30pm, ko 8pm)
With the World Cup now behind us, humdrum football (and not just preseason friendlies) returns with an early fixture in the competition won in March by Manchester City. With Premier League sides entering later, it brings together two Championship clubs who will be vying for promotion after narrowly missing out last year. Wrexham – owned by the movie star Ryan Reynolds and the TV star Rob McElhenney – were just below the play-off places, while Middlesbrough lost the Championship play-off final. *JD*

Tony Bennett night (BBC4, from 9.45pm)
Frank Sinatra once called Tony Bennett "the best singer in the business", but he was never quite part of the Rat Pack, instead a New York jazz stylist closer to Duke Ellington and Count Basie. He outlasted them all, possessed both of a sensitivity and staying power that saw him carry the Great American Songbook into the 21st century via his celebrated duets with Amy Winehouse and Lady Gaga. Tonight's programming celebrates the centenary of his birth, most of it hailing from his 1979 *Tony Bennett Sings* heyday featuring songs from the movies, from Broadway, Tin Pan Alley and, of course, his own hits. They are bookended by his *London Palladium: BBC Sessions* from 2011 and a 1996 documentary about his native New York, the city where, whatever claim San Francisco might make, he left his heart. *HS*

Gardeners' World (BBC2, 8pm)
Mary Berry is tonight's special guest, spending the day at Damson Farm near Bath with Frances Tophill. The beloved TV cook proves her expertise stretches beyond the kitchen as she offers practical gardening advice, reminisces about her youth in Bath and helps to celebrate a harvest of homegrown fruit and vegetables. Elsewhere there are visits to an urban edible garden in London, a Punjabi allotment community and a city wildlife sanctuary.

Tony Bennett (BBC4, 9.45pm)

The NaNaz — Age Against the Machine (BBC1, 7.30pm)
Sally Wainwright's BBC drama *Riot Women* wasn't pure fiction: this *Our Lives* documentary follows the NaNaz, a Welsh punk band who met at a music workshop for women over 50. The cheering film follows them as they prepare to play their fast-and-very-furious songs about injustice and menopausal rage at a New York festival, balancing their complicated, busy lives with the desire to rock.

Surgery Secrets of the Super Rich (C4, 8pm)
Microneedling, cheek threads and a liquid nose job: these treatments may be the preserve of the wealthy, but they sound more like punishments dispensed by gangsters. Fans of Cronenbergian body horror can flinch at a laser helping to "trim" a patient's gums.
Victoria Segal

Film choice

28 Days Later (BBC1, 10.45pm)
Danny Boyle's reimagining of the zombie film owes more to John Wyndham than it does to George A Romero. The opening is pure *Day of the Triffids* as the bicycle courier Jim (Cillian Murphy) awakes from a coma to find London deserted. The zombies are terrifying – fast-moving rage-infected terrors. A sequel, *28 Weeks Later*, followed in 2007, with *28 Years Later* in 2025 and *28 Years Later: The Bone Temple* in 2026. (2002)

Hoard (BBC2, 11.05pm)
This is the story of the traumatised free spirit Maria. The first part details the relationship between Maria (Lily-Beau Leach) and her mother (Hayley Squires). The second finds the teenage Maria (Saura Lightfoot Leon) living with a foster mother, Michelle (Samantha Spiro), getting high and becoming fascinated by Michelle's 29-year-old former charge (Joseph Quinn). A cinematic fever dream. (2023)

Heretic (Sky Cinema Premiere/ Now, 11.10pm)
Hugh Grant turns villainous as Mr Reed, who welcomes two young missionaries into his cavernous house to discuss their religious doctrines. They suspect something is up when his wife doesn't join them, then things get much, much worse and the girls find themselves trapped in a psychological game of terror. (2024)

On demand

● **Carpe Diem (C4 streaming)**
If you can overlook the uninspiring title, which appears to have little to do with the show, this French-language crime procedural is a delight. Samuel Le Bihan stars as the roguish ex-con Tom Villeneuve, free after serving 17 years for murdering his wife (spoiler: he didn't do it) and now working as a solicitor amid the seedy seaside glamour of Nice. On the surface this might all seem rather familiar, but the show's mix of convincing subsidiary characters plus its feel for the authentic culture and racial mix of the French Riviera is authentically beguiling.

● **Death Inc (Netflix)**
Since it premiered in 2024 this Spanish-language black comedy, set within a struggling funeral home, has become a genuine cult hit. Much of the praise has been directed towards the chemistry between Ascen López as Nieves, the widow of the deceased former owner, and the brilliant Carlos Areces, who plays her late husband's former assistant, Dámaso Carrillo, a man who believes he was the rightful heir to the company. A modern Iago, Carillo is a truly great comic creation and with this, the fourth and final season, it will be fascinating to see if and how he receives his comeuppance.
Andrew Male

BBC 3

7.00pm The Catch Up
7.05 I Am Darren Comedy. (R)
7.20 FILM: Night At The Museum 2 Stars Ben Stiller. Nightwatchman Larry and his museum-exhibit friends must stop a reanimated pharaoh from taking over the world. Frantic sequel. (2009, PG)
9.00 Death In Paradise A distillery owner is poisoned during a group tasting of his premium run. (Series 14, ep 4, R)
10.00 Ghosts Australia Kate's mother invites herself to move in. (4/8, R) **10.20 Ghosts Australia** Kate and Sean's date night is interrupted. (R)
10.45 The Golden Cobra
12.40 Ideal (Series 3, ep 1)
3.35-3.50 Calamity James (R)

BBC 4

7.00pm Also Sprach Zarathustra At The Proms A trio of pieces inspired by the wonders of the sky.
8.20 TOTP: 2000. With All Saints. **8.45 TOTP:** 1984. Music by Tracey Ullman, Jeffrey Osborne and Blancmange. **9.15 TOTP:** 1988. With Kim Wilde, the Funky Worm and Fairground Attraction.
9.45 CHOICE Tony Bennett At The London Palladium — BBC Sessions A 2011 concert in which the singer marked his 85th birthday. (See Critics' choice)
10.45 Tony Bennett Sings — Songs From The Movies The crooner performs big-screen songs. (1/6)
11.15 Tony Bennett Sings
1.55 Tony Bennett's New York
3.20-3.45 TOTP: 2000. Music.

ITV 2

6.00pm Catchphrase Stephen Mulhern hosts, with Mo Gilligan, Naga Munchetty and Joanna Page.
7.00 The Floor USA Rob Lowe hosts the gameshow.
8.00 The 1% Club Quiz hosted by Lee Mack, in which the questions are about logic and common sense.
9.00 FILM: John Wick Stars Keanu Reeves and Willem Dafoe. A former assassin who has turned his back on violence is provoked into a murderous rage when a criminal kills his dog. Sleek thriller. (2014, 15; includes FYI Daily)
11.05 Family Guy Brian dates an older woman. (Series 8, ep 4) **11.35-12.05 Family Guy** Stewie is left home alone. (Series 7, ep 4)

ITV 3

5.50pm Heartbeat Gina is suspected of being a hit-and-run driver. **6.55 Heartbeat** Tricia and Mike finally declare their love .
8.00 Doc Martin Penhale decides to have a police open day to raise community awareness. (Series 8, ep 6) **9.00 Doc Martin** It is the annual Portwenn versus Port Carran gig race.
10.00 Grantchester An unexpected twist lies in store at a charity boxing match at Vic's gym. (Series 5, ep 5) **11.00 Grantchester** A woman is found dead, laid out in the shape of a crucifix.
11.50-12.55 Trial & Retribution It becomes obvious to the team that a serial killer is on the loose. (Series 10, ep 7)

E4

6.00pm The Simpsons Back-to-back episodes.
8.00 Vanderpump Rules Lisa offers Marcus the chance to DJ at a premiere party; Venus tries to mend his friendship with Kim; and Shayne dates two girls at the same time.
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Well-known faces review Rivals, First Dates, Only Connect and Will & Ralf Should Know Better.
10.00 FILM: American Pie — The Wedding Stars Jason Biggs. The friends reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's upcoming trip to the altar — but events quickly spiral out of control. A satisfying final helping. (2003, 15)
11.55-1.00 Naked Attraction

U&Drama

6.00pm Last Of The Summer Wine Blamire's old friend Foggy Dewhurst arrives in the village. **6.40 Last Of The Summer Wine** The trio help a friend with a medical problem. **7.20 Last Of The Summer Wine** Foggy organises a trip to the seaside.
8.00 Father Brown A former health spa employee is found murdered. (Series 9, ep 9) **9.00 Father Brown** Lady Felicia's lavish New Year ball is ruined when a VIP guest is murdered.
10.00 New Tricks A 33-year-old murder at Smithfield Market leads to a shocking revelation. (Series 6, ep 8)
11.20-12.40 Luther The DCI begins to suspect that he has been double-crossed. (Series 1, ep 5)

Sky Arts

6.00pm Tales Of The Unexpected A tenant feels uneasy about his landlady. **6.30 Tales Of The Unexpected** A woman is cut down to size by her husband's loyal butler.
7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Bad Actor. An alcoholic actor strangles his friend. **7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents:** The Door Without A Key. A man goes to a police station claiming memory loss.
8.00 Bob Dylan — The Other Side Of The Mirror The singer-songwriter at the Newport Folk Festival.
9.35 I Was A Teenage Sex Pistol The story of the band.
11.20-12.20 Classic Albums Examining the making of Never Mind the B*******, Here's the Sex Pistols.

Sky One

6.00pm Animal Control Frank's beloved dog is taken away from him. (Series 4, ep 4, R) **6.30 Animal Control** Frank needs a date for a romantic sunset horse ride. (R)
7.00 The Simpsons Homer and Marge face marriage strife. (R) **7.30 The Simpsons** Bart buys a rare comic. (R)
8.00 An Idiot Abroad Karl Pilkington travels along America's Route 66. (R)
9.00 Micky Flanagan — If Ever We Needed It A stand-up show by the comedian. (R)
10.15 Grimsburg Flute is accused of murder. (4/13) **10.45 Grimsburg** The police go undercover to find a killer of wedding bouquet catchers. **11.15 Grimsburg** The host of a murder mystery party is killed.
11.45-12.15 Animal Control (R)

Sky Atlantic

4.40pm The Last Of Us A survivor of a fungal outbreak is charged with a mission that could save the world. (Series 1, ep 1) **6.05 The Last Of Us** Joel and Tess clash over Ellie's fate.
7.00 The Penguin Sofia strives to build a new legacy for herself. (5/8) **8.00 The Penguin** Despite his enemies' efforts to smoke him out, Oz seeks to expand his reach in the city.
9.00 Station Eleven Elizabeth, Tyler an Clark confront an even more uncertain future. (5/10) **10.00 Station Eleven** Kirsten leaves the Traveling Symphony behind to track down the Prophet.
11.00-12.00 The Last Of Us Joel and Ellie near the end of their journey. (Series 1, ep 9)

TPTV

6.00pm Rumpole Of The Bailey A young man is framed by a known gang.
7.00 Z Cars Barlow investigates pornography being distributed at a school, but Watt is more focused on saving his marriage.
8.00 Public Eye Frank investigates a bankrupt clothing company, and uncovers a web of deceit and treachery.
9.10 Supernatural After her widowed father remarries, a girl becomes obsessed by a doll that she is convinced is a reincarnation of her mother.
10.15-10.45 Tales Of Tomorrow A scientist perfects a chemical that unleashes people's dark sides, but then his neglected wife accidentally take the drug.

Films

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE
6.00pm Mortal Kombat II (2026, 15) **8.00** Seven Snipers. A retired sniper must reunite her kill squad to protect her daughter. (2026, 15) **9.30** Normal. A temporary small-town law enforcer uncovers dark mysteries after a bank robbery. (2026, 15) **11.10-1.10 CHOICE** Heretic (2024, 15; see Film choice)

SKY CINEMA THRILLER
6.00pm The Bourne Ultimatum (2007, 12) **8.00** Snatch. A boxing promoter and his dim-witted sidekick are drawn into a match-fixing racket. (2000, 18) **9.45** Murder By Numbers. A cop tries to prove two teenagers framed a drug dealer. (2002, 15) **11.50-2.15** Goodfellas (1990, 18)

SKY CINEMA GREATS
6.00pm Lethal Weapon (1987, 15) **8.00** Lethal Weapon 2. The detectives set their sights on a corrupt diplomat laundering drug money. (1989, 15) **9.55** Patriot Games (1992, 15) **11.55-1.55** Fatal Attraction (1987, 18)

SKY CINEMA SELECT
5.50pm The Lego Movie 2 — The Second Part (2019, U) **7.50** Monster Family. A young family is cursed by a witch and transformed into monsters. (2017, PG) **9.30** Monster Family 2 (2021, PG) **11.20-12.55** Mr Peabody And Sherman (2014, U)

SKY CINEMA DRAMA
4.00pm Dreamgirls (2006, 12) **6.15** Quartet (2012, 12) **8.00** Regretting You. A mother and daughter face difficulties after an accident reveals a shocking betrayal. (2025, 12) **10.00-12.30** Anora (2024, 18)

FILM4
4.50pm The True Story Of Jesse James (1957, PG) **6.40** Ad Astra. An astronaut goes on a mission to Neptune to uncover the truth about his missing father. (2019, 12) **9.00** The Martian (2015, 12) **11.50-2.05** Last Night In Soho (2021, 18)

Entertainment

ITV4
5.50pm Minder **6.55** Sharpe **9.00** FILM: RoboCo. Stars Peter Weller. Sci-fi thriller **11.10** All Elite Wrestling — Dynamite **1.30-2.30** Minder

MORE4
5.50pm Car SOS **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** Carpe Diem. New series. French legal drama, with Samuel Le Bihan **10.05** 24 Hours In A&E **12.15** 999 — On The Front Line **1.15-3.25** 24 Hours In A&E

U&GOLD
5.40pm Last Of The Summer Wine **6.20** Keeping Up Appearances **7.00** Dad's Army — The Lost Episodes **7.35** Porridge **8.20** Are You Being Served? **9.00** The Office **9.40** Fawlty Towers **10.20** Not Going Out **11.00** The Green Green Grass **11.40** The Office **12.20** Fawlty Towers **1.00** Not Going Out **1.40-2.30** Am I Being Unreasonable?

SKY COMEDY
6.00pm Will & Grace **7.00** The US Office **8.00** The Office Movers **9.00** Alex Edelman — Just For Us. Stand-up show **10.45** Rob Beckett — Wallop **12.00** Chris Ramsey — Live From London **1.00** Community **2.00-2.40** The Comeback

5 STAR
6.00pm Home And Away **7.00** GPs — Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts **9.00** 999 — Critical Condition **10.00** A&E After Dark **11.00** Trauma Room One **12.00** Skin A&E **1.00** Cold Case Killers **2.00-2.45** Casualty 24/7 — Every Second Counts

5 USA
6.00pm NCIS **9.00** Beauty And The Beast. Double bill **11.00-2.55** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

SKY WITNESS
6.00pm Nothing To Declare **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **9.00** Chicago Fire **10.00** FBI: Most Wanted **11.00** The Rookie **12.00** FBI **2.00-3.00** FBI: International

U&W
6.00pm DIY SOS — The Big Build **7.00** MasterChef Australia **8.20** Nigella — At My Table. Beef and aubergine fatteh. **9.00** Pete Wicks — For Dogs' Sake **11.00** Gavin & Stacey **12.55** Inside The Ambulance **1.35-3.00** Sort Your Life Out

COMEDY CENTRAL
6.00pm Friends **9.00** Bradley & Barney Walsh — Breaking Dad **10.00** Dara O Briain — Craic Dealer. Stand up show **11.00** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **12.00** 8 Out Of 10 Cats **1.40-2.40** Police Squad!

U&YESTERDAY
6.00pm Antiques Roadshow **7.00** The Green Planet **8.00** Canal Boat Diaries. Two editions **10.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00-1.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics

U&DAVE
6.00pm Hairy Bikers' Best Of British **7.00** Mortimer & Whitehouse — Gone Fishing **7.40** Would I Lie To You? **8.20** QI XL **9.20** Would I Lie To You? **10.00** Magnum PI **12.00** Mock The Week **12.40-2.00** Would I Lie To You?

Factual

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6.00pm The Forever Walk — China. Documentary following Paul Salopek on a trek across China **7.00** Air Crash Investigation. Three editions **10.00** Mega Marine Machines **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00** Amsterdam Central 24/7 **1.00-2.00** To Catch A Smuggler

DISCOVERY
5.00pm Alaska — Homestead Rescue **7.00** Supercar Showroom **8.00** Gold Rush — Mine Rescue With Freddy & Juan. Helping a family stretched thin after wildfires

NO-FLY SELF-GUIDED RAIL JOURNEY

Journey to Switzerland

August to December 2026

Experience the timeless romance of the rails on a journey to Switzerland with this exclusive tour for Times Holidays by Byway.

What's included

- All train travel including Eurostar and Unesco-listed railways
- Personal digital journey guide with tickets and tips
- Specially selected hotels
- Save £100 when booked by August 31, 2026^
- Times+ members receive an extra £100 off^.

Call **0808 303 3072** or visit
thetimes.com/th-switzerlandjourney

TIMES Holidays

ABTA Travel with confidence ABTA No.P8770

Terms and conditions apply. *Price shown is per person and based on two adults sharing on December 14, 2026 departure. Price correct as of July 22, 2026 and subject to change and availability. Price excludes mandatory local taxes/resort fees payable locally (amount varies by destination), these will be included in your quote. ^£100 off Times+ offer applicable to each Times Holidays booking made by December 31, 2026 with a minimum spend of £2,000 when quoting your unique Times+ code. Visit thetimes.com/timesplus for full terms and conditions. £100 Byway offer on all Times Holidays bookings made by August 31, 2026. Offers and bookings are subject to availability, see supplier website for full T&C's. This holiday is sold by Times Holidays as an agent for Byway and protected under ABTA P8770. For full booking conditions, visit thetimes.com/holidays/terms-and-conditions.

9.00 Expedition X — Atomic Sharks **10.00** Expedition Unknown — Shark Secrets **11.00** The Alaska Triangle **12.00** Deadliest Catch **1.00-2.00** Expedition X — Atomic Sharks

PBS AMERICA

4.55pm Hunting The KGB Killers **6.05** Conquistadors — The Rise And Fall **7.05** The Real Truth **8.15** The Rosenbergs — Atomic Spies **9.30** Hunting The KGB Killers **10.40-12.00** The Real Truth

SKY DOCUMENTARIES

6.00pm David Frost vs. Interviews **7.00** The Alien Autopsy Scandal **8.00** The Salisbury Poisonings — A Spy Next Door **9.40-12.00** Bowling For Columbine

SKY NATURE

6.00pm Big Cat Country **7.00** Monkey Life. Double bill **8.00** City Wildlife Rescue **9.00** Kenya Wildlife Diaries **10.00** Big Cat Country **11.00-12.00** Dawn To Dusk

DISCOVERY HISTORY

7.00pm How The Universe Works **8.00** Concorde — The Final Flight **9.00** Unexplained And Unexplored **10.00** How Do They Do It? **11.00-12.00** Combat Dealers

Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast **9.00** Good Morning Transfers **10.00** Sky Sports FC **12.00** Transfer Talk **1.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **3.00** LIVE The Hundred: Birmingham Phoenix Women v Sunrisers Leeds Women **6.00** News **7.00** LIVE EFL Cup: Middlesbrough v Wrexham. at Riverside Stadium. Kickoff at 8.00 **10.45** LIVE Tennis. Coverage of the Canadian Open **4.00-6.00** News

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am Premier League Stories **6.30** Classic Premier League **7.30** LIV Golf **9.00** Test Cricket **10.00** Reload **10.30** LIVE AFL **1.30** Premier League Stories **2.00** The Gruppetto **2.15** LIVE Tour De France Women. Coverage from the seventh stage **5.15** Reload **5.30** MLB Plays Of The Week **6.00** MLB Highlights **7.00** Supercars Championship Highlights **9.00** AFL **10.30** Premier League Stories **11.00** MLB Highlights **12.00** LIVE MLB **3.00** British Superbikes **4.00** FIM Speedway Grand Prix **5.00-6.00** Formula E Flashback

Radio & Podcasts

● Nick Grimshaw (6 Music, 7am)
As part of the BBC's *The Music Is Black* season, in collaboration with V&A East's exhibition of the same name celebrating British black music, every Friday in August the station will celebrate the scene over the past 40 years. Today's shows look back at the 1980s, beginning with Grimshaw talking to the rock pioneers Janet Kay and Caroll Thompson, followed by Lauren Laverne (10am) with DJ Norman Jay taking a dive into rare groove. At 2pm Craig Charles (1-4pm) speaks to Neville Staple of the Specials, and Emily Pilbeam (4pm) opens the doors into acid house.

Rick Astley presents the Rock Show on Radio 2

● The Rock Show with Rick Astley (Radio 2, 11pm)
Rick Astley sits in for Shaun Keaveny. Astley also appears on an episode of the *High Performance* podcast with Jake Humphrey and Damian Hughes, discussing why he stepped away from his pop career in his late twenties and how he made a successful comeback by accepting the Rickrolling phenomenon.

● History's Greatest Leaders (podcast)
In this series from *History Extra*, Mike Soutar (the entrepreneur, Alan Sugar sidekick on *The Apprentice* and former editor of Smash Hits) looks at what figures from history can teach us about leadership in the contemporary world. He opens with a discussion on Elizabeth I with the historian Tracy Borman, opining on her late decision-making; future leaders include Joan of Arc and Walt Disney. *Clair Woodward*

TIMES RADIO

5.00 Tom Nunan With Early Breakfast **6.00** Rosie Wright And Calum Macdonald With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Ed Vaizey **1.00** Ayesha Hazarika **4.00** Carolyn Quinn With Times Radio Drive **7.00** Dom Joly **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00** The Best Of Times Radio

To get in touch with the Times Radio studio, text TIMES plus your message to 87222. Texts cost your standard message charge.

RADIO 4

5.00 News **5.04** The Briefing Room (R) **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Farming Today **6.00** Today **9.00** Desert Island Discs. Lauren Laverne talks to the businesswoman Emma Grede (R) **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Food Programme **11.45** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away. Tony wonders if there is a more balanced way of looking at inheritance (R) **12.00** News **12.04** AntiSocial **1.00** The World At One **1.45** The Bare Necessities. Dan Richards seeks out those who live in close connection with the natural world **2.00** The Archers (R) **2.15** Drama: Central Intelligence **2.45** Living On The Edge. Meeting the keeper of Corsewall lighthouse near Stranraer (R) **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** Short Works **4.00** Last Word **4.30** Sideways (R) **5.00** PM **6.00** News **6.30** Current-ish **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Screenshot. Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode explore how film and TV have reflected changing ideas about masculinity and emotional intimacy **8.00** Any Questions? Alex Forsyth hosts the political forum from Open University, Milton Keynes **8.55** This Week In History (R) **9.00** Natalie Haynes Stands Up For The Classics (R) **9.30** Breakin' The Cycle (R) **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book At Bedtime **11.00** Americast **11.30** The Ocean Within Us (R) **12.00** News **12.30** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 4 EXTRA

5.00 Berlin **6.00** The Waiting Game **6.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **7.00** Little Blighty On The Down **7.30** Beyond Our Ken **8.00** The Confessional **8.30** Following Pappano **8.45** Small Island **9.00** Olga Koch — OK Computer **9.30** Behind The Taverna **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Soul Music **10.30** The Forum **11.00** The Waiting Game **11.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **12.00** Little Blighty On The Down **12.30** Beyond Our Ken **1.00** The Confessional **1.30** Following Pappano **1.45** Small Island **2.00** The Museum Of Curiosity **2.30** Millport **3.00** Berlin **4.00** Soul Music **4.30** The Forum **5.00** The Waiting Game **5.30** Who Killed Aldrich Kemp? **6.00** Little Blighty On The Down **6.30** Beyond Our Ken **7.00** The Confessional. Maisie Adam joins Stephen Mangan to discuss a newfound tendency to lie **7.30** Following Pappano. The preparations for a Royal Opera production of Puccini's La bohème **7.45** Small Island **8.00** The Museum Of Curiosity. With the artist Polly Morgan, the cartoonist Randall Munroe and the actor Steve Nallon **8.30** Millport **9.00** Berlin **10.00** Olga Koch — OK Computer **10.30** Njambi McGrath — Becoming Njambi **10.45** Rhys James Is Wise **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Vent **11.30-12.00** Laura Solon — Talking And Not Talking

LBC

7.00 Nick Ferrari **10.00** James O'Brien **1.00** Shelagh Fogarty **4.00** Tom Swarbrick **7.00** Rachel Johnson **10.00** Nick Abbot **1.00** Clive Bull **4.00** James Hanson

RADIO 3

6.30 Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00** Classical Live. Mark Forrest introduces highlights from the Proms, including music by Dvorak; chamber performances from this year's Ryedale festival; and Baroque music from Fribourg **4.00** Composer Of The Week **5.00** In Tune. Featuring a mixture of music, arts news and guests **7.00** BBC Proms. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, London, BBC Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, the conductor Nil Venditti, and the star soloists perform Rossini's Stabat Mater; and Respighi's Church Windows light the first half **10.00** Late Junction. Dan Gilmore revisits forgotten hard-drive recordings on Know I've Been Here Before, and a preview of Poland's Sanatorium of Sound Festival. Verity Sharp presents **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30** Through The Night

CLASSIC FM

6.30 Dan Walker **9.00** The Hall Of Fame Hour **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **6.00** Jonathan Ross **8.00** Alexander Armstrong **10.00** Calm Classics **2.00** Katie Breathwick

RADIO 2

6.30 The Sara Cox Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** Joel Dommett **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco. Uplifting disco tunes **11.00** The Rock Show With Rick Astley **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan — For The Love Of Hip-Hop (R) **1.00** Tony Blackburn's Sounds Of Soul **2.00** Pick Of The Pops (R) **4.00** Radio 2 In Concert

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30 Steve Denyer On The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Emma B **2.00** Ben Jones **6.00** Phil Taggart **10.00** Goldierocks **2.00** Jen Thomas

TALKSPORT

5.00 Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast With Alan Brazil **10.00** Sam Matterface & Alex Crook **1.00** Hawksbee And Jacobs **4.00** Drive **7.00** Kick Off **8.00** Kick Off: Middlesbrough v Wrexham. Kickoff 8.00 **10.00** The Sports Bar Weekender **1.00** Extra Time With Ben Fletcher

Ascot: the Shergar Cup (ITV1, from 1.10pm)

BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites Series highlights.
11.30 Anna Haugh's Big Irish Food Tour Cooking. (R)
12.00 Homes Under The Hammer Auctions. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Headlines.
1.15 Bargain Hunt Curios. (R)
2.15 Money For Nothing (R)
3.15 Escape To The Country (R)
4.15 FILM: Night At The Museum — Secret Of The Tomb Stars Ben Stiller. The nightwatchman Larry searches for a way to repair the magical artefact that brings museum exhibits to life. Good-natured sequel. (2014, PG)
5.50 News; Weather Reports.
6.10 The Hit List Music-based quiz, hosted by Marvin and Rochelle Humes.
6.55 Alan Carr's Picture Slam Gameshow in which contestants must identify a board full of images.
7.40 Michael McIntyre's Big Show An evening of entertainment, featuring musical and comedy performances, celebrity pranks and surprises. (R)
8.35 Pointless Celebrities Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general-knowledge quiz. (R)
9.25 How Are You? It's Alan (Partridge) The broadcaster reintegrates into life in Britain after a year working in Saudi Arabia, dedicating his efforts into a series of issues-led documentaries. (R)
10.00 News; Weather Reports.
10.20 FILM: Bridget Jones's Diary Stars Renée Zellweger and Hugh Grant. A woman begins a new year by resolving to find love and give up her bad habits. Charming romcom. (2001, 15)
11.55 News; Weather Reports.
6.00 Breakfast Headlines.
9.00 News; Weather Update.
10.00 Prayer And Reflection (R)
10.30 Pilgrimage Insights. (R)
11.30-12.15 Money For Nothing Transforming items. (R)

SCOTLAND 11.50 Sportscene — Premiership Highlights. Action from the latest matches. **12.40** BBC News. The latest headlines.

BBC 2

6.10 Children's Shows Fun.
8.50 Newsround Update.
8.55 Gardeners' World (R)
9.55 This Wild Life Insights. (R)
10.25 FILM: Angels One Five Stars Jack Hawkins. A squadron of British fighter aircraft heads for a confrontation with the Luftwaffe. Well-regarded adventure. (1953, U, B/W)
12.00 A Cook Abroad: Monica Galetti's France. (R)
1.00 The Great British Sewing Bee Mexican fashions. (R)
2.00 FILM: Summer Holiday Stars Cliff Richard. Four mechanics set off on a trip across Europe on board a double-decker bus, but an unexpected stowaway causes a few surprises. Cheesy fun. (1963, U)
3.45 Fake Or Fortune? A look at potential works by Lucian Freud. (Last in series, R)
4.45 Evolution Examining how intelligence evolved. (R)
5.45 FILM: Superman II Stars Christopher Reeve. The Man of Steel returns to take on a trio of super-powered fugitive villains from his home planet of Krypton. Exciting comic-strip sequel. (1980, PG)
7.45 Space Soundtracks At The Proms Performances.
8.45 Paul Heaton At The BBC Archive appearances by the singer, featuring the Beautiful South and the Housemartins.
10.20 Paul Heaton — Live At Bramall Lane A concert by the singer at Sheffield United's stadium.
11.45 The Housemartins In London 0 Hull 4 (R)
12.30 Top Of The Pops
1.30 FILM: Fallen Leaves Stars Alma Poysti. (2023, 12; Finnish with subtitles)
2.50-3.50 The Rapture Thriller. (Signed, R)
6.20 A To Z Of TV Gardening With Carol Kirkwood. (R)
7.05 Glorious Gardens From Above Landscapes. (R)
7.50 Countryfile Reports. (R)
8.50 Best Of Weatherman Walking Favourite treks. (R)
9.20 Beechgrove Garden (R)
9.50 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites Series highlights. (R)
11.20-12.20 Indian Food Made Easy Recipe ideas. (R)

ITV 1

6.00 James Martin's American Adventure A visit to LA. (R)
7.00 FILM: The Man With The Golden Gun Stars Roger Moore. James Bond investigates the death of a world-renowned scientist and is drawn into a battle of wits with a wily assassin. Sluggish. (1974, PG)
9.25 News; Weather Reports.
9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning Food and chat. (R)
12.00 Prue Leith's Cotswold Kitchen Recipe ideas. (R)
1.00 News; Weather Reports.
1.10 Racing Action from Ascot.
5.00 Tipping Point — Best Ever Finals Endgames. (R)
5.30 The Chase Quiz show. (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
6.45 Regional News Update.
7.00 Deal Or No Deal Stephen Mulhern presents the mystery-box gameshow.
8.00 FILM: Quantum Of Solace Stars Daniel Craig. James Bond sets out on a mission of vengeance and uncovers a plan to cause a coup in a Latin American country. Action-heavy thriller. (2008, 12)
10.05 News; Weather Reports.
10.20 The Staircase Clayton unwittingly makes a critical discovery. (4/8)
11.35 Sorry, I Didn't Know With Desiree Burch, Ria Hebden and Matt Richardson. (R)
12.10 Teleshopping Goods.
3.00 Cold Case Forensics: A Death On The Nile. (R)
3.50 Unwind Daily relaxation.
5.00 Fern Britton — Inside The Vet's A dog has surgery. (R)
6.00 James Martin's American Adventure San Antonio. (R)
7.00 James Martin's Saturday Morning Food and chat. (R)
9.25 News; Weather Reports.
9.30 Love Your Weekend (R)
11.25-12.25 Fern Britton — Inside The Vet's Animals.

Channel 4

6.10 Cheers Sitcom. (R)
8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
9.25 Frasier Sitcom. (R)
10.55 The Simpsons Cartoon. (R)
12.55 Four In A Bed B&Bs. (R)
3.30 The Dog House (R)
4.30 Love It Or List It (R)
5.35 Grand Designs (R)
6.30 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Sandi Toksvig's Hidden Wonders The presenter rediscovers her love of archaeology, more than 40 years after earning her degree in the subject. (R)
8.00 Bettany Hughes' Lost Worlds — Dawn Of Civilisations The historian travels across Turkey to uncover the origins of civilisation, tracing the birth of agriculture, religion, trade and urban life. (1/2)
9.00 Dictator — The Hitler Interviews Personal testimonies of those who met and knew Adolf Hitler are woven together to create a unique portrait of the man behind some of the worst crimes in history.
10.00 Elvis, The Colonel And The Mob Documentary about how the singer and his manager got mixed up in organised crime.
12.10 FILM: The Contractor Stars Chris Pine. After being discharged from the marines, a man joins a paramilitary organisation to support his family. Tense drama. (2022, 15)
1.55 Ramy Double bill of the comedy. (Last in series)
3.10 Ramsay's Hotel Hell (R)
3.55 Location, Location, Location In Bristol. (R)
5.00 The Simpsons (R)
5.50 Cheers Comedy. (R)
7.15 Everybody Loves Raymond Comedy. (R)
8.30 The Simpsons Cartoon (R)
10.00-1.00 Sunday Brunch

5

6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
9.05 Entertainment News
9.10 Secrets Of The Royal Palaces Double bill. (R)
11.05 Yorkshire's Poshest Hotel — Grantley Hall (R)
1.00 The Royals — Uncensored
2.00 Coastal Adventures (R)
4.00 UK's Strongest Man Live coverage of the semi-final from Glasgow, featuring disciplines including the bar bend and sack throw.
6.55 News; Weather Reports.
7.00 Sussex — Jewel Of The South Coast A look at the discovery of a Bronze Age settlement near Hastings.
8.00 The Middletons — The Making Of A Modern Queen The family's journey from humble beginnings to their profound influence on the monarchy. (R)
9.30 Kate — Our New Diana? Documentary comparing the lives of two Princesses of Wales — Diana, who died in 1997, and Kate, who has taken on her title. (R)
10.30 Diana & The Curse Of The Spencers Examining the upbringing of Diana, Princess of Wales. (R)
12.05 We Love Bridget Jones — All The Laughter And More Documentary. (R)
1.20 Teleshopping (R)
2.20 GPs — Behind Closed Doors Medical advice. (R)
3.10 Around The World In First Class With Josie Gibson. (R)
4.05 Friends US sitcom. (R)
4.30 Yorkshire With Jane McDonald Travel. (R)
5.25 Entertainment News
5.35 Children's Shows
6.00 Milkshake! Children's fun.
8.55 Entertainment News
9.00 FILM: Paw Patrol — The Mighty Movie With the voice of Mckenna Grace. Animation. (2023, U)
11.00-12.00 Happy Campers — The Caravan Park (R)

Films

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE
6.00pm Heretic (2024, 15) **8.00** Normal. A temporary small-town law enforcer uncovers dark mysteries after a local bank robbery. (2026, 15) **9.35** Mortal Kombat II. Several champions are pitted against one another in the ultimate battle to defeat the dark rule of Shao Kahn. (2026, 15) **11.35-1.15** Anaconda (2025, 12)

SKY CINEMA THRILLER
5.45pm Captain Phillips (2013, 12) **8.00** Mulholland Drive. An actress finds an amnesiac stranger in her room, and the pair set out to discover how she got there. (2001, 15) **10.35-12.30** Along Came A Spider (2001, 15)

SKY CINEMA GREATS
6.00pm Lethal Weapon 3 (1992, 15) **8.00** Lethal Weapon 4. The duo hunt a triad boss involved in forgery and trafficking. (1998, 15) **10.10-12.35** Clear And Present Danger. A CIA analyst becomes caught up in the Colombian drug trade. (1994, 12)

SKY CINEMA SELECT
5.35pm Wallace & Gromit In The Curse Of The Were-Rabbit (2005, U) **7.05** Happy Feet (2006, U) **8.55** Happy Feet Two. A tap-dancing penguin searches for his missing son. (2011, U) **10.40-12.10** Shaun The Sheep Movie (2015, U)

FILM4
4.40pm Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles — Mutant Mayhem (2023, PG) **6.50** My Stepmother Is An Alien (1988, 15) **9.00** Twister. A storm-chaser and her estranged husband reunite to map the path of a tornado. (1996, PG) **11.15-1.50** Midnight Run. A bounty hunter escorts a crooked accountant from New York to Los Angeles. (1988, 18)

SKY CINEMA DRAMA
3.40pm Molly's Game (2017, 15) **6.05** True Grit. A farm girl recruits a marshal to track down her father's killer. (2010, 15) **8.00** Rocketman. Elton John enters rehabilitation and recounts his extraordinary life. (2019, 15) **10.10-12.20** About Time. A man able to travel through time tries to use his power to improve his love life. (2013, 12)

Entertainment

BBC3
7.00pm FILM: Puss In Boots. With the voice of Antonio Banderas. Animated comedy **8.20** Not Going Out **9.50** Mrs Brown's Boys **10.50** Ghosts Australia **12.05** Schitt's Creek **1.30-3.00** Bluestone 42

ITV2
5.00pm FILM: Johnny English **6.45** FILM: Miss Congeniality **9.00** FILM: John Wick — Chapter 2. Stars Keanu Reeves. Action sequel **11.20** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** Plebs **1.50-2.15** Transaction

ITV4
4.15pm Sharpe **6.30** FILM: The Horse Soldiers. Stars John Wayne and William Holden **9.00** EFL Cup Highlights **10.00** All Elite Wrestling — Dynamite **12.30** Dempsey And Makepeace **1.30-2.20** Minder

E4
5.45pm The Simpsons **7.15** FILM: The Simpsons **9.00** Celebrity Gogglebox **10.00** Gogglebox **12.05** First Dates **1.10-3.00** Below Deck — Mediterranean

BBC 4

7.00pm Natural World
7.05 Life On Earth David Attenborough explores the lives of birds, focusing on the uses and advantages of their feathers in flight and during courtship.
8.00 Gloria — My Life On TV Gloria Hunniford looks back at her life, revealing what it has been like to be woman, mother and grandmother on TV and radio for over half a century.
9.00 Gloria Hunniford Remembers ... Doris Day The broadcaster reflects on her interview with the star.
9.15 Doris Day — Pebble Mill Special A 1995 show in which Gloria Hunniford interviews the American actress and singer at her home in Carmel, California.
9.55 Wogan Chat show, hosted by Terry Wogan.
10.25 The Val Doonican Music Show A series from 1975 featuring people singing musical numbers.
11.10 FILM: Parallel Mothers Stars Penelope Cruz. The story of two mothers who bond in unexpected way after both giving birth the same day. Profoundly touching drama. (2020, 15; Spanish with subtitles)
1.05 Keeping Up Appearances
1.35 To The Manor Born
2.05-3.00 Life On Earth

Bridget Jones (BBC1, 10.20pm)

Sky Arts

2.00pm Discovering Michael Caine The life of the actor.
3.00 FILM: Murder By Decree Stars Christopher Plummer. Sherlock Holmes tries to put a stop to Jack the Ripper's murders. Flabby mystery. (1978, 15)
5.20 Voices Of The Valleys Following three male voice choirs from across Wales.
6.20 Queen — Is This The Real Life? Documentary profiling the British rock band.
7.30 Queen — Live At Wembley Stadium A performance from 1986.
9.55 Queen: Greatest Video Hits 1. A compilation of the band's promos from 1973 to 1981. **11.15-12.55 Queen:** Greatest Video Hits 2. Including Radio Ga Ga, I Want To Break Free and Under Pressure.

Drama

1.05pm Father Brown (S9, ep 9)
2.05 New Tricks Two episodes.
4.25 Miss Marple: The Mirror Crack'd From Side To Side. With Joan Hickson. A garden party guest meets with foul play. (S3, ep 4)
7.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries With Neill Rea. Detective Inspector Mike Shepherd is sent to the New Zealand town of Brokenwood to investigate a death. (Series 1, ep 1)
9.00 Wallander Drama, with Kenneth Branagh. The inspector looks for a link between three apparently motiveless murders, and tries to identify a girl who burned to death. (S1, ep 1)
11.00-12.00 Outrageous Nancy finds herself persona non grata as the family gather at Diana's bedside. (5/6)

Sky Atlantic

8.00am House Of The Dragon Back-to-back episodes.
5.25 House Of The Dragon Rhaenyra struggles to come to terms with her son's murder. (Series 2, ep 1) **6.30 House Of The Dragon** Rhaenyra questions Daemon's loyalty. **7.45 House Of The Dragon** Daemon arrives at Harrenhal to raise an army.
9.00 Possession Supernatural thriller about a Bristol-based lawyer who travels to Jamaica to challenge an inheritance claim. (1/5) **10.00 Possession** With Gugu Mbatha-Raw.
11.00 The Five-Star Weekend A storm descends on the island. (7/8) **11.45-12.45 The Five-Star Weekend** Gigi finally opens up as long-buried truths emerge. (Last in series)

TPTV

5.50pm Scotland Yard
6.25 Dick Turpin Drama.
7.00 Maigret A devoted family man is found shot.
8.00 The Duchess Of Duke Street The Bentinck is urged to join in the war effort, making Louisa realise that patriotism exacts a high price.
9.05 Francis Durbridge's Melissa Mystery thriller, with Peter Barkworth. A journalist is accused of his wife's murder and inundated with incriminating evidence of more crimes. (1/3) **10.10 Francis Durbridge's Melissa** Guy Foster is implicated in the death of Mary and the attack on Joyce.
11.10 Eurotrash With guest Melinda Messenger.
11.45-12.20 Fortean TV

ITV3

1.25pm The Darling Buds Of May Pop's hoard of cash causes trouble for the family when Marcus Cope resolves to stop Charley buying the hop garden. (Series 2, ep 6)
2.30 Midsomer Murders With John Nettles. Joyce Barnaby is involved in a car accident, and when a body is found in a cemetery she thinks she is to blame, leading Tom into an investigation to find the real killer. **4.25 Midsomer Murders** During a music masterclass led by a renowned pianist, a prodigy suffers a panic attack and runs off to a nearby river, where she witnesses a woman drowning. **6.20 Midsomer Murders** A local boxer's successful world title bid stirs up hidden passions among the residents of Midsomer Morchard. **8.20 Midsomer Murders** A planning dispute leads to murder after a woman suspects her neighbours are involved in a money-making scam.
10.15-12.00 Vera The detective investigates when a body is found on the moors, and discovers the victim was a controversial figure with a complicated relationship with her family. (S6, ep 1)

Quantum Of Solace (ITV1, 8pm)

Radio

● Key Changes (Radio 3, 1pm)
The station's history of classical music turns to revolution-era France, with Simon Schama and guests discussing how composers adapted to politics and music moving from salons to festivals for the majority, with music expressing a new idea of national identity. *Clair Woodward*

TIMES RADIO

6.00 Rosie Wright And Calum Macdonald With Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Ed Vaizey **1.00** Jane Mulkerrins **4.00** Carole Walker With Times Radio Drive **7.00** Highlights From Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00** The Best Of Times Radio

RADIO 4

5.30 News **5.34** Shipping **5.43** Prayer **5.45** Living On The Edge (R) **6.00** News And Papers **6.07** This Natural Life (R) **6.30** Farming Today This Week **7.00** Today **9.00** What Happened To Counter-Culture? (R) **9.30** What's Up Docs? (R) **10.00** You're Dead To Me. Constantine the Great **10.30** The Kitchen Cabinet **11.00** Radical (R) **11.30** From Our Own Correspondent **12.00** News **12.04** Toast. EasyJet's failed move into cinemas **12.30** Current-ish (R) **1.00** News **1.10** Any Questions? (R) **2.05** Any Answers? **2.45** The Archers (R) **3.00** Drama: August In Manchester, by Katie Hims **4.00** Weekend Woman's Hour **5.00** Saturday PM **5.30** Sliced Bread (R) **5.54** Shipping **6.00** News **6.15** Loose Ends. From Belfast as the city hosts Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann for the first time **7.00** Last Word — Doing Death Differently (R) **7.15** Changing The Odds (R) **8.00** Archive On 4: Writing Our Mothers (R) **9.00** Ten Fights That Made The Green Movement (R) **10.00** News **10.15** The Food Programme (R) **11.00** Olga Koch — OK Computer (R) **11.30** Brain Of Britain (R) **12.00** Midnight News **12.15** Bookclub (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As World Service

RADIO 3

6.30 Breakfast **9.00** Saturday Morning **12.00** Earlier ... With Jools Holland **1.00** Key Changes — Essential History Of Classical Music **2.00** Record Review **4.00** Sound Of Cinema **5.00** BBC Proms. Live at Bristol Beacon, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Adam Hickox, and the cellist Maximilian Hornung perform Shostakovich and Rachmaninov **7.30** BBC Proms. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, Thomas Ades conducts the National Youth Orchestra in Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique and in his own Dante-inspired Purgatorio **9.40** BBC Proms. Paraorchestra and Charles Hazlewood recorded in concert at Bristol Beacon **11.00** New Music Show. A broadcast of Gerald Barry's opera Salome **12.30** Through The Night

MORE4

5.50pm Come Dine With Me **6.20** Four In A Bed **9.00** 24 Hours In A&E **11.05** 999 — On The Front Line **12.10** Emergency Helicopter Medics **1.15-3.25** 24 Hours In A&E

U&GOLD

5.40pm Only Fools And Horses **7.00** Joe & David's Magical Sitcom Tour **8.00** Porridge **9.20** The Fast Show **11.15** Gavin & Stacey **1.15-3.15** Only Fools And Horses

SKY ONE

6.00pm The Simpsons **7.00 LIVE** Boxing. Aaron McKenna takes on Etinosa Oliha in Dublin **11.00** FILM: Rambo III **1.00-3.00** The Force

SKY COMEDY

6.00pm The US Office **7.30** FILM: Chicken Run **9.00** Ricky Gervais — Fame **10.30** FILM: Seven Psychopaths **12.30** Chris Ramsey — Live From London **1.30-4.00** The Comeback

SKY WITNESS

6.00pm Nothing To Declare **8.00** Caught On Dashcam **9.00** Blue Bloods **10.00** Fire Country **11.00** FBI: International **12.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.00-2.00** FBI

U&W

6.00pm 999 Rescue Squad **7.00** Ambulance Australia **9.00** Gavin & Stacey **11.00** The Young Midwives Of Essex **1.00-2.15** Sort Your Life Out. With Stacey Solomon

U&YESTERDAY

6.00pm Seven Worlds, One Planet **7.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics **9.00** Bangers & Cash **12.00-2.00** Bangers & Cash — Restoring Classics

U&DAVE

5.40pm Would I Lie To You? Two editions **7.00** Gavin & Stacey **9.00** QI **10.20** Not Going Out **1.00** Have I Got A Bit More News For You **2.00-3.00** Live At The Apollo

Factual

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

6.00pm Air Crash Investigation **7.00** Destruction Decoded **8.00** Car SOS. A 1969 Jensen Interceptor **9.00** Car SOS. Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend work on a 1972 Renault Alpine A110 **10.00** Mega Marine Machines **11.00** Engineering Europe **12.00-2.00** Ultimate Airport Dubai

DISCOVERY

6.00pm Bull Shark Dinner Bell **7.00** The Woodland Workshop **8.00** Invasion Of The Mega Sharks **9.00** K-Pop Shark Heroes. Documentary **10.00** My Strange Shark Addiction. Four shark fanatics reveal their obsessions **11.00** Expedition X — Atomic Sharks **12.00** Expedition Unknown — Shark Secrets **1.00-3.00** How The Universe Works

PBS AMERICA

5.10pm Pirates — Behind The Legends. The voyages and exploits of Bartholomew Roberts **6.10** A Final Landing On Iwo Jima. A marine veteran returns to the battlefield on Iwo Jima 80 years after being wounded there **7.20** Hitler's Gold. Four editions **11.30-12.00** Weathered — Earth's Extremes

SKY NATURE

6.00pm David Attenborough's First Life **8.00** Deadly Australians **9.00** Wolves And Lions — Old Enemies **10.00-12.00** Big Cats Small World

DISCOVERY HISTORY

6.00pm How The Universe Works. Three editions **9.00-12.00** Massive Engineering Mistakes. Triple bill

Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am News **7.00** Breakfast **10.00** News **11.00 LIVE** The Hundred: MI London Women v Trent Rockets Women **2.00** Soccer Saturday **5.00 LIVE** EFL Cup: Colchester United v Southampton. Kickoff at 5.30 **7.45 LIVE** Boxing. Aaron McKenna takes on Etinosa Oliha in Dublin **11.00** Sky Sports Catch Up **12.00 LIVE** Tennis. The Canadian Open **4.00-6.00 LIVE** Boxing. Cherneka Johnson takes on Dina Thorslund in Orlando, Florida

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am Men's Cycling World Tour **7.00 LIVE** Snooker Chinese Open **10.30 LIVE** AFL **1.30** MLB **2.30 LIVE** Tour De France Women. Stage eight, a 175km route from Sisteron to Nice **5.45** Test Cricket Highlights **7.45** Reload **8.00 LIVE** UFC. Coverage of the preliminary bouts from UFC Fight Night 284. **10.00 LIVE** UFC. Mateusz Gamrot takes on Quillan Salkilld **1.30** Snooker Chinese Open **3.30** Reload **4.00-7.00 LIVE** AFL

‘SAM RYDER IS DIVINE.
AN ASTONISHING REVIVAL. A MASTERPIECE.’

THE TELEGRAPH

‘THE SHOW OF THE YEAR’

RADIO TIMES

‘RYDER IS A STAR’

THE i PAPER

WHATSONSTAGE

LONDON THEATRE

DAILY MAIL

THE INDEPENDENT

THE STANDARD

DAILY EXPRESS

MAIL ON SUNDAY

SUNDAY EXPRESS

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

LYRICS BY TIM RICE MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

THE LONDON PALLADIUM
NOW PLAYING UNTIL 5 SEP

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE
16 OCT - 9 JAN

LW THEATRES

LONDON.JESUSCHRISTSUPERSTAR.COM

LWH MUSICALS